

# **Master Plan Concerning the Development of Official Statistics**

**March 6, 2018**



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## Introduction

In March 2009, the “Master Plan Concerning the Development of Official Statistics” (hereinafter the “1st Term Master Plan”) was formulated to plan the comprehensive and systematic promotion of measures for the development of official statistics, based on the Statistics Act (Act No. 53 in 2007) that was completely revised in 2007. Additionally, in March 2014, a new “Master Plan Concerning the Development of Official Statistics” to revise the 1st Term Master Plan for the period starting April 2014 (hereinafter the “2nd Term Master Plan”) was formulated, and various types of policies have been promoted. Meanwhile, the “Basic Policy on Statistics Reform” (Decision by the Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy on December 21, 2016, hereinafter referred to as “the Basic Policy”) prescribed that the 2nd Term Master Plan was to be revised within 2017 and a new statistical development policy was to be established for the purpose of promoting solving urgent problems to develop and improve economic statistics and reinforcing the functions of the Statistics Commission and administrative departments of statistics. The “Final Report of the Statistical Reform Promotion Council” (Decision by the Statistical Reform Promotion Council on May 19, 2017, hereinafter referred to as the “Final Report”) and the “Basic Policy on Economic and Fiscal Management and Reform 2017” (Cabinet decision on June 9, 2017) drawn in response to the above policy also suggested promotion of statistical reform such as improvement of economic statistics based on GDP statistics and establishment of an evidence-based policymaking (EBPM) promotion system. As such, the socio-economic situation surrounding statistics have been changing significantly.

Under such a situation, it is important for the government as a whole to advance measures based on the purpose and objective of the Statistics Act while taking into consideration newly emerging needs and the changes in the socio-economic situation, so that official statistics can fully play their role as vital information that forms a rational basis for the decision making of people.

Therefore, based on Article 4, paragraph 6 of the Statistics Act, in consideration of the changes in the socio-economic situation surrounding statistics and based on the evaluation of the effects of the measures for the development of official statistics made through deliberations by the Statistics Commission, it is hereby decided to revise the 2nd Term Master Plan one year ahead of schedule, against the provision that the Master Plan shall be revised roughly every five years, into a new “Master Plan Concerning the Development of Official Statistics” for the period starting April 2018 (hereinafter the “3rd Term Master Plan”). The government will steadily and systematically promote the contents of the 3rd Term Master Plan.

Following the form of text and attached tables of the 1st and 2nd Term Master Plans, the 3rd Term Master Plan lists the background, necessity, future direction, and ongoing measures of initiatives in the text, while specific measures and policies to be taken in the next five years, ministries in charge, etc. are described in separate tables.

## **I. Basic Perspective and Policies in Developing Measures**

Official statistics are the foundation of evidence-based policymaking (EBPM) and are requested to play roles to actively contribute to administrative policy evaluation, academic research and industrial creation.

The basic policy of the 2nd Term Master Plan is, in order to respond to these requests as well as to produce and provide statistics on economy and employment trends, etc. on a more timely and accurate basis, aiming at “securing and improving the usefulness of official statistics” by developing various measures based on the following basic perspectives: (1) Securing and improving consistency between statistics, (2) Securing and improving international comparability of statistics, (3) Adequate responses toward environmental changes in the economy and society, (4) Promotion of accurate and efficient production of statistics, and (5) Promotion of the open statistical data and transparency of the statistical production process.

At relevant ministries, in line with the 2nd Term Master Plan for the most part and based on these perspectives, progress has been made in measures such as: (1) Construction of the new framework for industry-related statistics based on the Economic Structure Statistics (Fundamental Statistics), (2) Adaption of National Accounts (Fundamental Statistics) to 2008 SNA<sup>1</sup> and response to revision of international standards on employment, unemployment, etc. by the International Labour Organization (ILO), (3) Preparation of “Guidelines Concerning Handling of Consumption Tax Related to the Compilation of Sales Data, etc., in Statistical Survey” (Agreement at a conference for directors-general and directors of the main statistics departments of the Cabinet Office (CAO) and each ministry held on May 19, 2015), (4) Promotion of online surveys for statistical surveys, and (5) Revision of the “Guidelines Concerning Quality Assurance of Official Statistics” (Agreement at a conference for directors-general and directors of the main statistics departments of CAO and each ministry on March 31, 2010) to introduce process assurance<sup>2</sup> in the Guidelines. Even so, the environment surrounding the production and provision of official statistics, including conduct of statistical surveys and securing statistical resources (budget, staff), is becoming ever more severe.

Amid such a situation, the “Basic Policy on Statistics Reform” (Decision by the Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy on December 21, 2016; hereinafter the “Basic Policy”) provided policies to take specific initiatives for more accurate economic assessment, including improvement of basic statistics used in GDP statistics and improvement of GDP statistics processing and estimation methods as well as to revise the 2nd Term Master Plan ahead of schedule.

Additionally, in order to integrally promote reforms of EBPM and statistics as a pair of wheels, the “Final Report of the Statistical Reform Promotion Council” (Decision by the Statistical Reform Promotion Council on May 19, 2017; hereinafter the “Final

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<sup>1</sup> System of National Accounts. International standard on National Accounts adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission from 2008 to 2009

<sup>2</sup> Measure for the effective management of the process for conducting statistical surveys

Report”) in a meeting of the Statistical Reform Promotion Council held based on the Basic Policy put forward policies of drastic statistical reform which includes rebuilding and promotion of use of statistics systems from the viewpoints of users as the basis of reforms, reducing the burden on respondents, reviewing statistical work and statistical administration system, and improving efficiently of operations as well as strengthening infrastructure. Thus, shaping and implementation of these reform policies are required.

In order to respond to such changes in the socio-economic situation and statistical needs as well as to produce and provide statistics on economy, employment trends, etc. in a more timely and accurate manner, it is necessary to more emphasize and clarify the basic perspectives in developing measures in the 2nd Term Master Plan. Moreover, attention needs to be paid to the fact that these basic perspectives also have characteristics as the cross-cutting policies of all of the initiatives provided in the 3rd Term Master Plan.

For these reasons, in the 3rd Term Master Plan, the government as a whole shall work on realization of the statistical reform shown in the Final Report, etc., while strengthening the functions as the "control tower" of the Statistics Commission, and promote various measures that emphasize the viewpoints 1-5 below toward “securing and improving the usefulness of official statistics” which is also an important goal in the Statistics Act (Act No. 53 of 2007).

## 1 Accurate responses to EBPM and statistical needs

The “Declaration on the Creation of the World's Most Advanced IT Nation and the Basic Plan for the Advancement of Public and Private Sector Data Utilization” (Cabinet decision on May 30, 2017; hereinafter the “Basic Plan for the Advancement of Public and Private Sector Data Utilization”) based on the Basic Act on the Advancement of Public and Private Sector Data Utilization (Act No. 103 of 2016) stipulated basic policies on measures related to promotion of the use of public-private data, prescribing the necessity to promote EBPM by actively using statistical data, etc.

Under such a situation, in producing and providing official statistics that respond to changes in socio-economic situation, etc. in an appropriate manner, improvements are required to be made by heeding to and responding to external opinions, taking into account reduction of the burden on respondents.

To that end, the government shall reestablish a framework for regular and cross-cutting comprehension of statistical needs and suggestions of respondents that have been conducted for each survey to date, and the Statistics Commission and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) shall follow up on the status of response to the proposals comprehended.

Meanwhile, since development and improvement of statistics data<sup>3</sup> is essential in promoting EBPM, production and provision of statistics that reflect the statistical needs to the extent possible shall be promoted through statistics quality assurance activities by each ministry, revision of “Guidelines Concerning Quality Assurance of Official Statistics”, etc., in addition to “statistics review” (tentative name; the same applies

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<sup>3</sup> Statistics, questionnaire information, etc. and administrative record information used for statistical utilization

hereinafter) through periodic evaluation of statistics by the Statistics Commission and third-party evaluation by the “evaluation team” (tentative name; the same applies hereinafter) that will be newly established in the Statistics Commission.

## 2 Promoting cross-ministerial statistical development including improving National Accounts and economic statistics

The National Accounts are an extremely important indicator not only for more accurate comprehension of business trends but also from the viewpoints of overlooking and international comparison of economic conditions. At the same time, the National Accounts play roles in providing the basic concepts and framework for developing various economic statistics in a cross-cutting and systematic manner.

For such National Accounts, to improve the accuracy of the finalization, an idea to develop economic statistics in a cross-cutting and systematic manner has been proposed, taking one step ahead of the 2nd Term Master Plan. As a result, it has become important, under this new idea, for relevant ministries as a whole to embody the development of such economic statistics, with the Statistics Commission playing the central roles.

Therefore, regarding the National Accounts, aiming to shift the system of estimation for a benchmark year where the economic structure is assessed and estimated in detail every five years and estimation for years between and after benchmark years to a supply and use tables (SUT) system, relevant ministries as a whole shall promote deliberations and preparations for the shift and make efforts to improve their accuracy.

In shifting to an SUT system, under the framework of business survey<sup>4</sup> (tentative name; the same applies hereinafter), integration of statistical surveys pertaining to the service industry, improvement of the Census of Commerce (Fundamental Statistical Survey) and the Census of Manufactures (Fundamental Statistical Survey), etc. shall be integrally implemented while paying attention to reducing the burden on respondents. Associated with that, using the data collected in the Business Register, production and provision of the Economic Structure Statistics at the interim years of the Economic Census for Business Activity (Fundamental Statistical Survey) shall commence. For industries for which comprehending the economic situation is difficult with statistical surveys, utilization of administrative record information, etc. shall be actively considered.

Additionally, for individual fields whose problems cannot be solved by the initiatives above, represented by the five fields, namely, the construction, real estate, medical care, long-term care and education, initiatives shall be taken on solving problems of each field to realize step-wise improvement.

Further, relevant ministries as a whole shall deliberate on how the related economic statistics and statistical surveys for enterprises shall be and conduct studies on utilization of private data including administrative record information, etc. and big data<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> A new framework for comprehending items necessary for, for instance, estimation of the National Accounts consisting of consolidated and expanded service industry-related statistical surveys, annual Census of Commerce and Census of Manufactures, etc. on a cross-industry basis

<sup>5</sup> A large quantity of various data held by private enterprises which the progress of ICT has made possible and easy to generate, collect, accumulate, etc.

### 3 Securing and improving international comparability and consistency between statistics

Progress of globalization is affecting not only economic activities by capitals and work forces but also various social aspects such as information and cultures. Because of that, it has become important to improve international comparability of statistics through, for instance, contribution to international standards, in addition to accurate comprehension of the actual status of globalization according to the political needs. Additionally, securing and improving consistency and comparability between statistics by establishing and reviewing statistical standards, etc. in a timely and proper manner is important in aiming to improve the usefulness of statistics, and initiatives to enhance it by ministries as a whole are necessary, with the Statistics Commission playing the central role.

To that end, regarding the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) Plus<sup>6</sup> set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the government shall aim at disseminating the data category that is not disseminated yet and at addressing to expand the coverage of global indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) driven by the United Nations (UN).

Additionally, for the statistics for objectively comprehending the situation of men and women (gender statistics), the UN Statistics Division has indicated the importance of taking in the gender perspective in the process of producing various statistics in its Gender Statistics manual. Also, in Japan, the “Fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality” (Cabinet decision on December 25, 2015) and the “Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Implementation Guiding Principles” (Decision by the SDGs Promotion Headquarters on December 22, 2016) call for relevant efforts including comprehension of sex-disaggregated data from the viewpoint of enhancing gender statistics. Taking into account such political needs, the government shall comprehend sex-disaggregated data to the extent possible and promote production and provision of statistics that contribute to comprehension and analysis of data by age and by prefecture as well.

Further, deliberations are in progress to include expansion of disability statistics in the Fourth Basic Programme for Persons with Disabilities to be decided by the Cabinet within FY2017. Article 31 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Convention No. 1 of 2014) requests convention countries to collect statistical information, and the First Report by the Japanese Government on the Convention stated expansion of data and statistics as its task and intention of making efforts for improvements. Taking into account such political needs, etc., measures to expand disability statistics shall be implemented.

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<sup>6</sup> The highest-level dissemination standard established by IMF for disseminating data on economy and finance in a timely manner. Japan has addressed dissemination of five items such as financial soundness indicators and debt securities as participation requirements and participated in the SDDS Plus in April 2016. For other items that have to be addressed within five years of a transition period including items that are not yet addressed at the time of release of this document, Japan has to disseminate data for the past five years in the specified format and achieve full implementation.

At the same time, the government shall work on the development of statistical standards including necessary revision of the Japan Standard Industrial Classification (MIC Notification No. 405 of 2013) and the establishment of the Product Classification towards shifting to an SUT system as well as standardization of categories for representation such as regional divisions, aiming to improve the consistency between statistics.

#### 4 Promoting use of statistical data, etc. from user's viewpoint

In order to promote use of statistical data by the whole society, it is important to develop and enhance the use infrastructure and to provide statistical data in an easy-to-use format in accordance with the advance in the information and communications technology (ICT). Additionally, attention needs to be paid to the fact that provision and use of questionnaire information, etc.<sup>7</sup> are an initiative for effective utilization of existing data as they may enable responding to needs that were not expected by the survey conductors or data holders.

Therefore, to improve the convenience of the Portal Site of Official Statistics of Japan (e-Stat), the government shall proceed with expanding the data to be registered to the e-Stat and promote enhancement of its functions to meet user needs.

Further, in order to promote provision and utilization of questionnaire information, etc., the government shall undertake step-wise expansion of on-site facilities and available data for on-site use and establish a “one-stop service” system for provision and utilization of questionnaire information (e.g., one-window system for application and provision, etc.). At the same time, the government shall deliberate on the method to provide questionnaire information, etc. depending on the security level of use environment, etc., with a focus on on-site use.

On top of that, regarding provision of tailor-made tabulations and anonymized data, expansion of contents to be provided will be realized taking into account user needs.

#### 5 Developing and enhancing infrastructure toward promotion of statistical improvement

In order to realize measures in the 3rd Term Master Plan including cross-ministerial development of statistics such as improvement of economic statistics based on the National Accounts, it is important to reallocate and optimally arrange existing resources while securing resources necessary for implementing the measures. Additionally, it is essential to further strengthen the cooperation and collaboration among ministries with the Statistics Commission playing the central role.

For these reasons, with the Statistics Commission playing the central role, the government shall systematically secure statistical resources that will be needed for realizing improvement of economic statistics based on the National Accounts and

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<sup>7</sup> A general term specified by the Statistics Act, Chapter 3 (1) Secondary Use of Questionnaire Information (Article 32), (2) Provision of Questionnaire Information (Article 33), (3) tailor-made tabulations (Article 34), and (4) production and provision of anonymized data (Article 35 and Article 36).

rebuilding and promotion of utilization of statistics systems from the viewpoint of users. In addition, in order to secure resources necessary for comprehensive development of human resources engaged in practice and promotion of EBPM and production and provision of statistics, based on the “Policy Concerning Securing, Developing, etc. of Human Resources for Promoting EBPM” (tentative name; the same applies hereinafter), the government shall address organizational and personnel issues of statistics departments of the national government for the utilization of external experts such as young researchers, enhance and strengthen personnel exchanges with local public entities and strengthen statistical training. Additionally, the government shall continue to work on reduction of workload of local public entities through scrutiny of statistical surveys via local public entities and support to enumerators, as well as provide support necessary for promoting review and advancement of statistical survey and examination methods in accordance with the actual local situations.

The government shall also reduce the statistics-related public and private cost (a total of time cost required for operations of statistical survey conductors and statistics producers, respondents, users, etc.) by 20% in three years, by newly establishing a Statistics Review Team in the Statistics Commission to conduct statistics review by utilizing the business process reengineering (BPR)<sup>8</sup> technique used for operational reform in the private sector, and by promoting various initiatives based on the 3rd Term Master Plan.

Further, as the foundation of strengthening cooperation and collaboration, an operations manager to compile statistics of each ministry or the whole government shall be appointed as a Secretary (tentative name; the same applies hereinafter) placed under the Statistics Commission, and the Secretary shall establish a system for making close adjustments and coordination between the Statistics Commission and ministries. The Secretary of each ministry is obliged to participate in meetings of the Statistics Commission as the general manager of statistics departments of own ministry and to perform necessary communications, adjustments, guidance, etc. for all the related departments of own ministry.

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<sup>8</sup> BPR is to investigate and divide the current work process in detail, to analyze thoroughly problems from the aspects of improving the quality of services to the general public and utilization of human resources, to identify substantial issues, and to reconstruct the work process itself by improving them while also paying attention to setting appropriate effectiveness indicators. (From “Action Policy Concerning Operational Reform of National Administration” (Decision by the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications on August 2, 2016))

## **II. Matters Concerning the Development of Official Statistics**

### **1 Promotion of development of cross-cutting and systematic economic statistics based on National Accounts**

The National Accounts are the record of the overall economic trend of a country from the aspects of flow and stock conforming to international standards in a comprehensive and consistent manner. The National Accounts are an extremely important indicator not only for more accurate comprehension of business trends but also from the viewpoints of overlooking and international comparison of economic conditions. At the same time, the National Accounts play roles in providing the basic concepts and framework for developing various economic statistics in a cross-cutting and systematic manner.

While this understanding of the National Accounts was clearly described in the 1st Term Master Plan and succeeded in the 2nd Term Master Plan, in both of them, the summary of the understanding still remained “necessity for collaboration of the National Accounts and primary statistics” and “collaboration between the National Accounts and primary statistics is needed”.

In the Final Report, however, the Statistical Reform Promotion Council proposed a concept to improve economic statistics based on the National Accounts, namely, a one-step deeper approach to conduct cross-cutting and systematic development of economic statistics as the basis of the National Accounts in order to improve the accuracy of the National Accounts.

Under this new approach, Japan will promote a major reform to shift the Input-Output Tables (Fundamental Statistics) that form the basis of the National Accounts to an SUT system, and to estimate the National Accounts directly from the "benchmark year SUT" prepared under this system. Under the “new estimation system” as the goal of this major reform, correlation between the National Accounts and basic information used for its estimation will become clearer, and more systematic development of related economic statistics will become available.

#### **(1) Development and improvement of basic statistics and accuracy improvement and enhancement of National Accounts**

In proceeding with this drastic reform, it is essential to integrally conduct the improvement of the processing and estimation methods of the National Accounts themselves as well as the development and improvement of economic statistics with the Statistics Commission playing the central role. To that end, the following measures will be prioritized.

- a) Improvement of basic statistics that contribute to more accurate economic assessment, improvement of processing and estimation methods of National Accounts, etc.
- (i) In improving basic statistics contributing to more accurate economic assessment, from the viewpoint of improving the accuracy of quarterly estimation of the National Accounts including the Quarterly Estimate of GDP (hereinafter “QE”),

monthly and quarterly basic statistics shall be improved with a focus on statistics and statistical surveys used for the quarterly estimation of the National Accounts, such as the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) Current Survey of Production (Fundamental Statistics), Monthly Survey on Service Industries (monthly survey portion), Family Income and Expenditure Statistics (Fundamental Statistics), Financial Statements Statistics of Corporations by Industry (Fundamental Statistics), Integrated Statistics on Construction Works, Consumer Price Index, and Monthly Labour Statistics (Fundamental Statistics). In so doing, adequate attention shall be paid to consistency with the retroactive period of basic statistics including the National Accounts and processed statistics and to reduction of the burden on respondents.

- (ii) Reduction of revision intervals between the primary QE and secondary QE of the National Accounts is requested. To that end, relevant ministries as a whole shall deliberate the possibility of partly bringing forward the Quarterly Survey for Financial Statements Statistics of Corporations by Industry so that it can be used for the primary QE, while obtaining cooperation from the economic sector. At the same time, towards reduction of revision intervals between QEs and the annual estimate, in order to reduce the differences in data of basic statistics used in each stage from QE through the annual estimate, the relevant responsible ministries as a whole shall deliberate remedial measures mainly for the METI Current Survey of Production and the Monthly Survey on Service Industries (monthly survey portion). Additionally, based on the improvement of basic statistics including these measures, the government shall ceaselessly promote the improvement of the processing and estimation methods of the National Accounts, including review of the integration rate of demand-side statistics and supply-side statistics in quarterly estimation.
- (iii) Regarding dissemination of QE by production approach and income approach as reference series, the 2nd Term Master Plan requests addressing as soon as possible after the 2011 benchmark revision, and the government shall scrutinize specific methods towards its realization and reach a conclusion quickly.
- (iv) In addition to the initiatives above, from the viewpoint of improving the accuracy of actual values, the government shall promote comprehensive studies on, for instance, a price comprehending method reflecting changes in the quality of medical care, long-term care and education which is not always adequately covered by the current estimation. Additionally, regarding comprehension of market trading price-based prices of construction or retail services (margin), the government shall proceed with empirical considerations towards related studies, its utilization, etc.

b) Development of National Accounts that are reviewed with a focus on production approaches

- (i) Annual estimation of the National Accounts can be divided into “benchmark year estimation” published roughly every five years and “interpolated year and

extrapolated year estimation” (hereinafter the “interim year estimation”) interpolated and extrapolated for each year based on the benchmark year estimation. Of these, aiming at fully reflecting the economic structure, the benchmark year estimation is based on the Input-Output Tables that are produced roughly every five years using the results of the Economic Census for Business Activity. Regarding the Input-Output Tables, the system will be shifted to an SUT system which is the international mainstream, and benchmark year SUT will be directly produced. That will enable direct estimation of GDP by production approach (added value by industry) in benchmark year estimation of National Accounts, which will make comprehension of the input structure more accurate.

Also, for the interim year estimation, estimating “interim year SUT” that is produced yearly by directly interpolating and extrapolating benchmark year SUT will enable obtaining the GDP by production approach that consistently reflects the input structure that is directly comprehended for the benchmark year.

Complete transition to this new estimation system is a long-term project with FY2030 being set as the ending fiscal year<sup>9</sup>. Therefore, it is essential to steadily and systematically promote related deliberation and verification operations. During the period of the 3rd Term Master Plan, deliberations from theoretical and practical aspects shall be carried out on general issues (e.g., early building of the basic configuration of benchmark year SUT and Input-Output Tables based on certain objective rules, adopting a “seamless” design for benchmark year SUT and interim year SUT based on the same concept to the extent possible), and on development of the Product Classification, etc., to assuredly lead to the next step.

- (ii) As described in (2) below, from the viewpoint of improving the accuracy of interim year SUT, etc., plans have been made on establishment of a framework of business survey with a focus on integration and enhancement of service-related statistical surveys and annual implementation of the Census of Commerce, and on development and improvement related to statistical surveys by industry for other industries, etc. It is necessary to realize further improvement of the accuracy of interim year estimation in the National Accounts in a format which reflects appropriately interim year SUT utilizing such basic statistics.
- (iii) It is important to solve problems of individual fields whose problems cannot be solved by the initiatives above (e.g., shifting to a new estimation system and establishing a framework of business survey), represented by the five fields, namely, the construction, real estate, medical care, long-term care and education.

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<sup>9</sup> The main schedule is as follows: Transition to an SUT system is planned for the service sector in the 2020 Input-Output Tables (to be published in FY2024) and for all industries in the 2025 Input-Output Tables (to be published in FY2029). Additionally, based on that, in the benchmark revision of the National Accounts planned for 2030, it has been decided to work on building benchmark year SUT and interim year SUT by direct estimation for all industries. For details, see the Final Report Supplementary Material P.5 “Development Schedule of GDP Statistics Reviewed with a Focus on Production Approach” ([http://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/singi/toukeikaikaku/pdf/saishu\\_sankou.pdf](http://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/singi/toukeikaikaku/pdf/saishu_sankou.pdf))

In the construction and real estate fields, room for improvement can be seen in, for instance, construction cost, construction progress pattern, repair work, and some real estate brokerage fees and sales margins. In the medical care and long-term care fields, some data necessary for producing interim year estimation have not also been obtained. In the education field, comprehension of the intermediate input structure is inadequate. Solving these problems is important from the viewpoints of shortening the revision intervals of GDP in the National Accounts and more accurate comprehension of figures. Therefore, for these five fields, responsible ministries shall take the central role to make step-wise improvements by identifying specific problems as well as conducting deliberations on the improvement of estimation methods, the development of basic statistics, etc., one after another.

c) Improvement of international comparability, etc.

- (i) From the viewpoints of further increasing the international comparability of the National Accounts and Input-Output Tables, in the next benchmark revision of the National Accounts in Japan, conforming to the latest international standards 2008 SNA, accounting of original copies of entertainment, such as movies and music, literature and art work as gross fixed capital formation shall be realized. Additionally, in the 2015 Input-Output Tables, deliberation shall be carried out on including in-house software and research and development (R&D) as gross fixed capital formation. Further, regarding the category of leases in the National Accounts, deliberation shall be carried out on estimation methods based on the development status of basic statistics to ensure consistency with international standards.
- (ii) To strengthen the contribution to the process for formulating new international standards of National Accounts, active participation in international discussions shall be promoted. Specifically, taking into account international trends, theoretical and practical studies shall be promoted for, for instance, incorporating new fields whose comprehension has been difficult to date, and opinions shall be actively expressed at international conferences.

(2) Promotion of systematic development of economic statistics with a focus on Economic Structure Statistics, etc.

In the 1st Term Master Plan, Economic Structure Statistics were positioned as important statistics for improving the accuracy of various statistics including the National Accounts and for providing information useful for the decision making of various kinds of people and policy making through comprehensive understanding of economic activities in all industrial fields at one point in time. Additionally, to produce Economic Structure Statistics, based on the “Framework of the Economic Census” (Review Meeting on Establishment of Economic Census (Tentative Name), March 31, 2006), it was decided to proceed with abolition, suspension, and integration of relevant statistical surveys and to establish and implement the

Economic Census for Business Frame (under the jurisdiction of MIC; Fundamental Statistical Survey) and the Economic Census for Business Activity (under the joint jurisdiction of MIC and METI) in FY2009 and FY2011 respectively, while obtaining cooperation from relevant ministries.

In the 1st Term Master Plan, based on the perspective of improving the accuracy of the National Accounts, tasks to consider anew the relationship with major industry-related statistics that are closely related to Economic Structure Statistics, how survey items shall be, etc. were included. However, partly due to significant changes in the environment surrounding the Economic Structure Statistics that took place during the course of consideration, it has become necessary to rearrange tasks to be considered.

Based on circumstances like the above, in the 2nd Term Master Plan, initiatives by relevant ministries as a whole were included toward solving various issues such as consideration on the “new framework with a focus on the Economic Structure Statistics” and development of statistics for more accurate grasping of the trend of the “tertiary industry” with a focus on service industry that continues to account for about 70% of the GDP, and the results of the consideration were summarized in March 2017. Some of the results were reflected on the Basic Policy and the Final Report.

For these reasons, relevant ministries as a whole must, in the future, promote the initiatives below and aim to realize the statistical reform, taking into account statistical needs, socio-economic changes, etc. based on the results of the consideration.

a) Systematic development of economic statistics with a focus on Economic Structure Statistics

- (i) As for the “benchmark year” of Economic Structure Statistics, in the Economic Census for Business Activity, activities of all establishments, enterprises, etc. will be comprehensively grasped at one point in time, and statistics clarifying the national and regional economic structures shall be produced and provided every five years. Additionally, while paying attention to reducing the burden on respondents, the actual status of conducting surveys, etc., relevant ministries as a whole shall consider how the survey unit shall be including the feasibility of introduction of the concept of kind of activity unit (KAU), possibility of comprehending business activities on an activity basis, etc.

In conducting the Economic Census for Business Activity in and after 2021, attention shall be paid to maintaining the consistency with the shifting to an SUT system described in (1) above, reducing the burden on respondents, and decreasing the workload on the local public entities that conduct surveys.

- (ii) Regarding the Economic Structure Statistics in interim years of the Economic Census for Business Activity (hereinafter the “interim year Economic Structure Statistics”), relevant ministries shall rearrange relevant Fundamental Statistical Surveys and newly comprehend and provide the actual situation in the interim

years including changes in the structure from a benchmark year, in addition to the conventional objectives and roles to develop and provide population information in Economic Structure Statistics.

Specifically, cross-industrial statistics shall be produced and provided from FY2020 in each interim year with a focus on the Survey on Economic Structure<sup>10</sup> (tentative name; the same applies hereinafter) that evolutionally integrates the Survey of Selected Service Industries (Fundamental Statistical Survey), Monthly Survey on Service Industries (expanded survey portion) and the Census of Commerce and is planned to be conducted from FY2019, by utilizing results of statistical surveys, administrative record information, etc. (e.g., Census of Manufactures to be conducted simultaneously and integrally with the Survey on Economic Structure, and the Economic Census for Business Frame that is planned to be shifted to profiling activities and rolling surveys<sup>11</sup>) which are registered in the Business Register. In addition, utilizing the results of statistical surveys for enterprises, deliberation shall be carried out on the estimation method for added values, etc. by region (by establishment).

In developing the interim year Economic Structure Statistics, while efforts shall be made to reduce the burden on respondents, in cooperation with CAO, attention shall be paid to improving the accuracy of interim year SUT through a framework of business surveys described in (1) above and to maintaining the consistency with the benchmark year Economic Structure Statistics.

- (iii) In regards to the interim year Economic Structure Statistics, in order to contribute to improving its usefulness and increasing the accuracy of interim year SUT, it is important to expand its content while paying attention to reducing the burden on respondents and the implementation status of its survey after integration. Specifically, deliberation shall be carried out on the possibility of the Survey on Economic Structure to include the Census of Manufactures, etc. that are planned to be conducted simultaneously and integrally with the Survey on Economic Structure, and on the utilization of data tabulated from the Business Register after specifying the survey items that need to be uniformly and universally comprehended for defining the registration items from the results of the Construction Work Survey (Fundamental Statistical Survey), etc. to be registered in the Business Register.

b) Improvement and development of service industry and enterprise-related statistics

- (i) In order to promote development of statistics concerning the service industry, it is important to comprehend the added values, etc. for the whole service industry, which are crucial in clarifying the structure of the service industry.

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<sup>10</sup> Survey under the joint jurisdiction of MIC and METI (result tabulation is planned to be conducted by the National Statistics Center)

<sup>11</sup> Method to survey the status of operating, being closed, etc. for establishments throughout the country one after another

To that end, in planning the Survey on Economic Structure that is to be conducted from FY2019, MIC and METI shall, in cooperation with CAO, aim to comprehend added values more accurately and make it a Fundamental Statistical Survey, while paying attention to improving the accuracy of National Accounts and reducing the burden on respondents. Additionally, as for the Survey on Economic Structure, review of survey items, etc. shall be conducted, taking into account the consideration status of the 2021 Economic Census for Business Activity and interim year SUT.

- (ii) From the perspectives of improving the accuracy of QEs and further improving the usefulness of the Indices of Tertiary Industry Activity, MIC and METI shall reach a conclusion by the end of 2022 at the latest towards the rearrangement and integration of the Monthly Survey on Service Industries (monthly survey portion) and the Current Survey of Selected Service Industries.
- (iii) Regarding the Survey on Economic Structure that is planned to be conducted from FY2019, it will be conducted for some establishments for the need to identify cost items, but is expected to be conducted as a statistical survey mainly targeting enterprises.

Therefore, from the viewpoint of reducing the burden on respondents, relevant ministries shall give consideration to role sharing, elimination of overlaps, etc. between the Survey on Economic Structure and surveys for cross-industrial comprehension of the activity status of enterprises (i.e. METI Basic Survey of Japanese Business Structure and Activities (Fundamental Statistical Survey) and Survey for Financial Statements Statistics of Corporations by Industry (Fundamental Statistical Survey)) as well as surveys for comprehension of the activity status of enterprises by industry sector (e.g., Construction Work Survey, Basic Survey on the Information and Communications Industry, Basic Survey on Small and Medium Enterprises).

Also, from the viewpoint of more accurate comprehension and provision of changes in enterprise activities, relevant ministries shall, as the first step, specify the survey items that shall be uniformly and universally comprehended for defining the registration items from the results of statistical surveys targeting enterprises registered in the Business Register, promote provision of enterprise statistics utilizing the Business Register and then, as the second step, consider development of statistics for comprehending the activity status of large-scale enterprises in a cross-cutting manner.

### (3) Infrastructure development and strengthening cooperation toward improving National Accounts and economic statistics

In order to develop cross-cutting and systematic economic statistics based on the National Accounts system described in (1) and (2) above, relevant ministries as a whole shall promote the initiatives below to serve as the foundation.

#### a) Development and utilization the Business Register

The Business Register has been developed by using questionnaire information derived from Fundamental Statistical Surveys or General Statistical Surveys, by inquiry to corporations and other organizations, etc., based on the provisions of Article 27, paragraph 1 of the Statistics Act. The Business Register has been utilized as population information in statistical surveys conducted by ministries, targeting establishments, enterprises, etc., where the Business Register is playing an important role in reducing the burden on respondents and producing statistics efficiently. Additionally, the Business Register is expected to perform a core function in producing and providing the interim year Economic Structure Statistics and enterprise statistics described in (2) above.

Therefore, regarding the Economic Census for Business Frame whose aim is to develop list information, MIC shall proceed with the transition from the current survey method of identifying the location, etc. of establishments, enterprise, etc. once every five years to profiling activities and rolling surveys that will start from FY2019 as well as enhancement of comprehension of public establishments.

In developing and expanding the Business Register, MIC shall, in cooperation with relevant ministries, promote identification and use of corporate numbers and shall work on resolving the discrepancy in the number of enterprises from that in population lists of the Financial Statements Statistics of Corporations by Industry by, for instance, using administrative record information, etc. and confirmation results from rolling survey, in addition to using new administrative record information, etc. (including notification status of corporate numbers, etc.) and private data.

Further, MIC shall consider measures to improve the usefulness of the Business Register in cooperation with relevant ministries, and work on provision and use of population information concerning corporations, establishments, etc. including corporations without full-time officers or workers for the purpose of contributing to expansion of coverage of economic statistics.

When it comes to statistical surveys targeting establishments, enterprises, etc., in principle, each ministry shall use the latest information in the Business Register while taking into account the characteristics of each survey.

b) Improvement of economy-related statistics through development and application of various guidelines

In improving the convenience for users of statistics and providing interim year Economic Structure Statistics and corporate statistics using the Business Register, unification of definitions in statistical surveys for establishments and enterprises, etc. has become important.

For that reason, as for the “Guidelines Concerning Handling of Consumption Tax Related to the Compilation of Sales Data, etc. in Statistical Survey” formulated based on the 2nd Term Master Plan, initiatives to expand its application shall be implemented taking into account changes in socio-economic situations such as the raising of the consumption tax rate to 10% and introduction of reduced tax rates

planned for October 2019. Additionally, relevant ministries shall jointly promote consideration for, for instance, the feasibility of entering before tax price uniformly in primary statistical surveys.

Further, in regards to the “Guidelines Concerning Workers Classifications, etc., in Statistical Surveys” (Agreement at a conference for directors-general and directors of the main statistics departments of CAO and each ministry held on May 19, 2015), initiatives to revise it or to expand its application shall be implemented taking into account verification results pertaining to the feasibility of conducting surveys, etc.

## 2 Development of statistics that accurately grasp changes in social and economic situations

In Japan, in view of the arrival of a seriously depopulating society and tougher budgets, it has become important to develop statistics that accurately and quickly grasp various changes in socio-economic situations and to utilize them in planning and verification of various policies. In addition, in developing and improving such statistics, attention needs to be paid to the viewpoint of systematic development as described in 1 above, in addition to reducing the burden on respondents and efficient production of statistics.

For such reasons, the initiatives below shall be intensively implemented mainly by the ministries in charge, with the cooperation of other relevant ministries.

### (1) Development of statistics that more accurately grasp actual situation of depopulating society

Japan’s population used to steadily increase but started to decrease in 2005 for the first time after WWII. The population took on a decreasing trend after peaking in 2008 and continued to decrease from 2011 onward. As a result, Japan is now facing the issue of a seriously depopulating society. Meanwhile, the working-age population ratio (ratio of population aged 15-64 years to the total population) has continuously been declining after peaking in 1992, while the aging rate (ratio of population aged over 65 years to the total population) continued to increase. The aging rate reached 25.1% in 2013, more than one in four persons, indicating advancement in the declining birthrate and aging population. Such depopulation may affect the economy of Japan. That is, the reduction in the working-age population due to the declining birthrate and aging population can lead to a reduction in labor input, resulting in expansion of domestic demand in some fields such as medical care and long-term care services. On the other hand, it can serve as a cause of shrinking domestic demand in many fields, which may affect sustenance of local society and urban functions.

Amid such a situation, in grasping the structural change, etc. of the population and the surrounding society more accurately, the importance of the Population Census (Fundamental Statistical Surveys) and the Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions (Fundamental Statistical Surveys) has increasingly risen. Therefore, for these surveys, in addition to the initiatives that have been implemented, further

improvement and efficiency of survey methods, enhancement of publication and information provision, etc. shall be promoted, while paying attention to reducing the workload on local public entities.

Additionally, regarding the Vital Statistics (Fundamental Statistical Survey), while efforts have been made on expansion of tabulation, etc., consideration shall be promoted on the feasibility of tabulation for municipalities where foreigners over a certain scale reside in response to the needs for expanding tabulation by region according to regional characteristics, and initiatives shall be taken on further expanded provision of the questionnaire information as well as on improved online reporting system.

(2) Development of statistics that more accurately grasp actual situation of education, employment, etc.

Amid the progress in declining birthrate aging population, the “Basic Policy on Economic and Fiscal Management and Reform 2017” (Cabinet decision on June 9, 2017; hereinafter the “Basic Policy 2017”) stated that education bears a significantly important role in realizing a society promoting dynamic engagement of all citizens, and listed policies on (1) drastic enhancement of human resource investment, (2) improving the quality of education, and (3) enhancement of recurrent education, etc.

Additionally, the Central Council for Education is proceeding with the revision of the “Basic Plan for the Promotion of Education” (Cabinet decision on June 14, 2013) taking into account socio-economic issues such as (1) progress in declining and aging population, (2) rapid technological advancement, (3) progress in globalization and declining international presence, and (4) poverty of children, and is also considering preparation of indices for grasping the achievement of the target.

Under such a situation, as for the Basic School Survey (Fundamental Statistical Survey) that is positioned as the basis of school-related statistics, since improvement of survey items, enhancement of information provision, etc. have been requested by political needs, (1) enhancement and review of survey items towards more detailed analysis, (2) reduction of burdens by eliminating overlaps in survey items with relevant statistical surveys, (3) more accurate comprehension of employment status of graduates, etc. shall be conducted, and deliberation shall be carried out on changing to a survey and statistic system which can be flexibly modified when addition of survey items, etc. takes place.

It is also important to understand and analyze the relationship between the situation of household income and the situation of academic advancement and employment by utilizing statistical surveys, administrative record information, etc. As part of the move, regarding the Longitudinal Survey of Babies in the 21st Century (2001 Cohort), deliberation shall be carried out on survey items based on political needs, and efforts shall be made to maintain the scale of respondents, verify their representability, improve the accuracy of responses, etc.

Further, regarding the School Health Examination Survey (Fundamental Statistical Survey), to further improve its usefulness as fundamental statistics, while paying attention to reduction of the burden on respondents, survey methods, sample design

and survey items for producing statistics shall be scrutinized based on the actual use status and statistical needs, and deliberation shall be carried out on overall improvement of survey planning including collection and storage of data. When deliberating, attention shall also be paid to provision of questionnaire information, etc.

Also, as for the Social Education Survey (Fundamental Statistical Survey) and the Statistics on Student Guidance, initiatives toward continuous improvement shall be implemented while obtaining understanding of relevant parties on the survey burden.

(3) Development of statistics that accurately grasp changes in the ways of working, etc.

As the working-age population decreases due to the declining birthrate and aging population, in accordance with the “Action Plan for the Realization of Work Style Reform” (Decision by the Council for the Realization of Work Style Reform on March 28, 2017), the Basic Policy 2017 requests promoting cross-ministerial measures like: (1) improvement in the working conditions of non-regular workers such as by providing equal pay for equal work; (2) correction in long working hours; (3) promotion of flexible work styles; (4) facilitation of a balance between work and medical treatment, childcare or long-term care and facilitation of employment of persons with disabilities; and (5) acceptance of foreign workers.

Under such a situation, as for labor-related statistics, while efforts have been made on creation and provision of new indices in line with international standards, review of survey items, etc., their importance in promoting and assessing work style reform has been increasingly rising, and it is vital for relevant ministries as a whole to work on improving survey items to be more appropriate, enhancing provided information, etc.

For that reason, with regard to the Labour Force Survey (Fundamental Statistical Survey) for producing major monthly dynamic statistics targeting households, initiatives shall be promoted towards enhancing the provision of information such as points to be noted in making time-series comparison associated with changes in choices involved with “status in employment” and indices on unused labor. In addition, from the viewpoint of contributing to further improvement of the convenience for users of statistics, methods of information provision shall be devised and enhanced by clarifying the workers classification and term correspondence in tabulation tables, while relating Labour Force Survey with the Monthly Labour Survey (Fundamental Statistical Survey) which produces major monthly dynamic statistics targeting establishments.

Also, as for surveys for producing structure statistics, regarding the Employment Status Survey (Fundamental Statistical Survey) targeting households, consideration of survey items, etc. for more accurately comprehending the impact of childcare and long-term care on the employment shall be promoted. Moreover, regarding the Basic Survey on Wage Structure (Fundamental Statistical Survey) targeting establishments, consideration toward solving problems shall be promoted, including (1) enhancement of information provision based on the results of technical studies on comparison with

the Monthly Labour Statistics, (2) consideration on provision of anonymized data with a focus on personal questionnaires, (3) changing the method for estimating the number of workers taking into account collection rates, and (4) reviewing survey methods toward improving the efficiency of survey and earlier publication.

Further, in regards to the Survey on Seamen's Labour (Fundamental Statistical Survey), the stratified classification (by use and by gross tonnage) in sample design of the survey No.1 reviewed in FY2017, shall be applied from the FY2018 survey. In addition, regarding the current sample design where vessel is the survey unit, deliberation shall be carried out on drastic revisions including adoption of sample design where establishment is the survey unit, and a conclusion shall be reached quickly. At the same time, deliberation shall be carried out on drastic revisions including how the survey shall be as a Fundamental Statistical Survey, taking into account changes in the industry structure, seamen's employment environment, etc.

#### (4) Development of statistics for promoting agriculture-, forestry- and fisheries-related measures

In regards to agriculture, forestry and fisheries (AFF) statistics, in accordance with changes in the AFF policies, including fundamental statistical surveys, development of necessary statistics is progressing while making efforts on reducing the burden on respondents and conducting surveys efficiently.

Meanwhile, the Basic Policy 2017 included policies for developing aggressive AFF industry to make it a growing industry and for solving structural issues in order to hand rural districts over to future generations and to improve income of agricultural workers, etc. Specifically, to steadily promote the "Plan to Create Vitality for the Industry and Regional Communities" (Decision by the Headquarters on Creating Dynamism through Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery Industries and Local Communities on December 10, 2013; revised on December 8, 2017) and AFF policies stemming from various master plans that have been formulated based on the said Plan, the government is required to appropriately develop AFF-related statistical data and to provide them in a timely and proper manner.

To that end, in developing AFF statistics, while continuously paying attention to reducing the burden on respondents and conducting surveys efficiently, enhancement of survey items and provided information, etc. shall be promoted from the viewpoint of more accurate comprehension of changes in the structure of the AFF industry, changes in the business performance of AFF operators and workers, actual situation of distributional structure, etc. which are necessary for developing related policies. Additionally, new statistics shall be developed for comprehending and analyzing the situation of entry from other industries to the agricultural and forestry industries, cooperation, etc. by the Census of Agriculture and Forestry (Fundamental Statistical Survey) and the Economic Census for Business Activity. Also, consideration and verification shall be conducted towards reviewing the survey target category of the Statistical Survey on Farm Management and Economy (Fundamental Statistical Survey) in order to comprehend the actual situation of management bodies in various forms.

#### (5) Development of statistics for developing environment- and energy-related measures

In regards to statistics related to the environment, relevant ministries have been making efforts in developing statistics based on the 2nd Term Master Plan, including an initiative to improve the accuracy of data on waste and commencement of the Survey on the Actual Conditions of Carbon Dioxide Emission from Residential Sector.

Further, with the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) playing the central role, relevant ministries and agencies have been unitedly conducting calculation of the greenhouse gas emissions and absorptions, and creation and submission of emission/absorption inventories based on the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (Convention No.6 of 1994) and Kyoto Protocol. However, in order to realize accurate calculation through development of a domestic system on tabulation, enumeration and publication of statistics on the emissions/absorptions, and assurance and management of the quality of data, further enhancement of greenhouse gas emissions/absorptions data is required, including conducting the Current Survey on CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions in the Household Sector.

In addition, since promotion of the Plan for Global Warming Countermeasures (Cabinet decision on May 13, 2016) is requested in the Basic Policy 2017 and the Growth Strategy 2017 (Cabinet decision on June 9, 2017), the government is required to continue to work on the development of statistics on the environment and energy sectors. Further, responses to international initiatives SEEA<sup>12</sup> and SDGs have become important.

Therefore, deliberation shall be carried out toward further improvement of the accuracy of the Waste and recycling statistics, verification shall be made on the Structural Survey of Energy Consumption regarding the persistence of the effects of revisions, and systematic development of statistics on energy consumption in the industrial and operations sectors shall be promoted.

#### (6) Improvement of statistics needed for transport related measures

In regards to statistics related to transport, towards promoting development and collaboration of statistics in response to changes in the socio-economic situation in addition to ensuring the stability and continuity of the statistics, efforts have been made to unify freight classification, and to improve the accuracy of statistics to comprehend the fuel consumption based on the 2nd Term Master Plan.

Meanwhile, in order to realize “strong logistics” that meet future needs, the “Comprehensive Logistics Policy Outline (FY2017–2020)” (Cabinet decision on July 28, 2017) holds up the promotion of various measures to realize efficiency by cooperation and collaboration among transportation mode (a modal shift). It also holds up to tackle global environment issues through the promotion of improvement of the energy efficiency and advancement of efficiency of operations in the transport

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<sup>12</sup> System of Environmental - Economic Accounting

sector that accounts for nearly 20% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (after distribution of electricity/heat) in Japan, as well as by the realization of a modal shift to railways and ships which emit less CO<sub>2</sub> per transportation unit compared to trucks.

In order to monitor the progress of these measures, it has become important to further develop transport statistics while paying attention to reducing the burden on respondents by utilizing administrative record information.

For these reasons, as for the Survey on Motor Vehicle Transport (Fundamental Statistical Survey), surveys using new survey methods shall commence, and consideration shall be given on enhancement of dissemination items and the ways to stabilize figures. At the same time, regarding the Survey on Port and Harbour (Fundamental Statistical Survey), consideration shall be given towards earlier dissemination and enhancement of tabulation items.

#### (7) Improvement and systematic development of real estate-related statistics

As for statistics related to real estate, from the establishment of the 1st Term Master Plan, in order to more accurately comprehend the real estate (land and building) property (stock) of companies, relevant statistics have been integrated and rearranged, the Corporation Survey on Land and Buildings (Fundamental Statistical Survey) has been conducted every five years, and efforts have been made on the development and deliberation of statistics related to real estate from mid-term perspectives, taking into account the status of achievement of the Dynamic Survey on Land for comprehending the trend (flow) of land acquisition in the interim years.

Under such a situation, in order to realize further systematic development of statistics related to real estate, it is necessary to consider how to structurally comprehend the land ownership and use status of corporations by region, and how to conduct survey efficiently. In addition, it is also required to continuously work on rearrangement of issues towards development of statistics for comprehending the overall picture of land ownership and use status in Japan including the household and public sectors, while paying attention to reducing the burden on respondents.

For these reasons, regarding the Corporation Survey on Land and Buildings conducted every five years and the Land Dynamism Survey conducted in the interim years between two Corporation Survey on Land and Buildings, while paying close attention to the situation of consideration on the “How the dissemination of real estate registration information shall be”, etc., based on the “Regulatory Reform Action Plan” (Cabinet decision on June 9, 2017), consideration shall be promoted towards efficient conduct of surveys, including the possibility of use of real estate registration information and how the structural comprehension of land ownership and use status shall be. Additionally, in order to grasp the overall picture of land ownership and use status in Japan, verification and consideration towards enhancing the production method of the Basic Survey On Land<sup>13</sup> shall be promoted, and

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<sup>13</sup> Collective term for the “Household Survey On Land” produced by transcribing and tabulating from the “Corporation Survey on Land and Buildings” (Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism) and the “House and Land Statistics Survey” (MIC). Also estimates the amount of assets based on the two surveys.

specific tasks shall be identified.

#### (8) Improvement and enhancement of statistics necessary for promoting tourism measures

As for tourism statistics, based on the 2nd Term Master Plan, development has been promoted through enhancement of dissemination of TSA<sup>14</sup>, improvement of the accuracy of the Statistics on Inbound Tourists produced by prefectures, etc.

Meanwhile, the “Tourism Vision to Support the Future of Japan” (Decision by the Council for the Development of a Tourism Vision to Support the Future of Japan on March 30, 2016) calls for regional revitalization through tourism, building tourism into a key industry, etc.

Additionally, the “Tourism Nation Promotion Basic Plan” (Cabinet decision on March 28, 2017) based on the said Vision prompts promotion of use of tourism statistics in policy making, including presenting specific and practical analysis and use methods of various tourism statistics to local public entities and tourism-related industries, in addition to conducting statistical surveys from 2018 on the number of inbound tourists and expenditures by prefecture that is useful for regional analysis as well as giving consideration to measures to comprehend the actual state of diversifying accommodation forms.

In promoting these measures, development and improvement of tourism statistics shall be continued for more accurate comprehension of tourist attraction situations and consumption trends including those in local areas. At the same time, supports by the government to local public entities as well as cooperation between them are as important as ever.

Therefore, in regards to the Regional Tourism Statistics that are produced using existing tourism statistics, improvement of estimation methods as well as systematic development of tourism statistics shall be promoted through improvement of related statistics including the possibility of utilization of private sectors’ data, consideration toward improved statistics that reflect changes in the forms of tourism due to expanded use of cruise ships. In addition, as for the International Visitor Survey, a conclusion on improvement needed for representation by prefecture shall be achieved based on verification of accuracy.

### 3 Promotion of statistical development, international cooperation, etc. that reflect the globalization

Progress of globalization is affecting not only economic aspects including capitals and work forces but also various social aspects such as information and cultures.

Amid such a situation, Japan has engaged in promotion of international cooperations, such as: (1) data maintenance in SDDS Plus specified by the IMF; (2) participation in international conferences such as the UN Statistical Commission, as well as meetings of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD); (3) dispatching experts of statistics through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA); (4)

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<sup>14</sup> Tourism Satellite Account

acceptance of government officials engaged in statistics from foreign countries including developing countries; and (5) cooperation in operation of the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP).

Meanwhile, in order to expand a virtuous cycle of developing the vitality of Japanese enterprises overseas and bringing the fruit into each region in Japan, the Basic Policy 2017 and the Growth Strategy 2017 call for a number of policies including promotion of overseas development of Japanese enterprises utilizing their advanced technologies and provision of support in overseas development for medium- and small-sized enterprises which have unique technologies yet could not make a bold start on overseas development.

In order to appropriately respond to such socio-economic changes and political needs, official statistics shall be improved the international comparability on statistics via contribution to international standards. Regarding SDGs set by the UN, the coverage of indicators shall be improved based on the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles since the coverage is 40% out of 244 global indicators as of June 2017 in Japan..

Additionally, while the Statistics Commission playing the central role, related ministries as a whole shall strengthen initiatives, such as dissemination of information to international organizations, towards further international cooperation and collaboration, in addition to the improvement of not only the accuracy of statistical surveys for comprehending global business transactions, globalization of enterprises and overseas business activities but also the provision of relevant information.

For these reasons, the government shall work on dissemination of the data category that is not disseminated yet in the SDDS Plus and increasing the efforts on global SDG indicators, and promote initiatives for producing and providing new statistical tables of the Financial Statistics of Social Security in Japan (Fundamental Statistics), improving its usefulness. Further, regarding the development of relevant statistics, the government shall work on extended use of information on merchandise trade by enterprises, enhancement of information provision, and more accurate comprehension of overseas business activities.

Also, as for promotion of international cooperation, the government shall improve international contributions such as active participations in international conferences and enhancement of dissemination of information to international organizations and sharing statistics-related information with international organizations.

### **III. Matters Necessary for the Development of Official Statistics**

#### **1 Streamlining statistical production and reducing the burden on respondents**

##### **(1) Use of administrative record information, etc. and big data, etc. held by private enterprises, etc.**

Utilizing administrative record information and big data held by private enterprises, etc. sector in producing statistics contributes not only to reducing the burden on respondents in statistical surveys but also to accurate and efficient production of statistics. Therefore, active utilization of such resources by ministries has become essential.

Meanwhile, such administrative record information and big data held by private enterprises, etc. (1) widely vary in regulatory restrictions and the state of digitization, (2) widely differ in the characteristics of individual data such as bias and noise, and (3) have not been standardized or integrated in terms of their data format. Therefore, it is important to proceed utilization specifically and intensively along with high usability or priority.

Therefore, taking into account that the Final Report set to establish a committee consisting of members with expertise and relevant stakeholders as well as a pilot framework for addressing the related issues extensively, MIC shall forward interactive uses of data between ministries, local public entities and private enterprises, etc. through organizing industry-government-academia cooperated meetings, selecting data with precedents on the use of private data or high prioritized data (including administrative record information), accumulating various issues solved and good practices on the use of such data by intensive considerations with the cooperation of stakeholders, and sharing as well as horizontal application of information on the status of effective utilization of big data, etc.

Additionally, each ministry shall promote utilization of administrative record information and big data held by private enterprises, etc., and properly control the data through initiatives below:

##### **a) Use of administrative record information, etc.**

Based on the 2nd Term Master Plan, ministries are promoting use of administrative record information through (1) considerations of the possibility of using administrative record information in planning statistical surveys, (2) confirmation of consideration status in examination for the approval of statistical surveys by the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications and deliberations of Fundamental Statistical Surveys by Statistics Commission, (3) conduct and dissemination of surveys on the use of administrative record information for production of statistics.

Meanwhile, the Basic Policy and the Final Report call for (1) studies on the use of tax information on income as supplementary information for more accurate comprehension of business trends, analysis of long-term economic trends, and especially for comprehending wage trends, (2) specific consideration

towards establishing a system which enables diverting administrative record information reported separately by a respondent to a ministry into producing statistics with the respondent's consent, and (3) reduction or replacement of survey items by utilizing public and administrative record information. To this end, further strengthening of initiatives by relevant ministries is needed.

For that reason, MIC shall enhance the survey on the use of administrative record information for production of statistics, and promote studies on the use of administrative record information from basic and practical aspects, taking into account the status of implementation in other countries. Additionally, with the cooperation of the Ministry of Finance (MOF), CAO shall proceed studies followed by using tax information on income as supplementary information for more accurate comprehension of wage trends. Further, in cooperation with relevant ministries, MIC shall consider individual and specific measures including using administrative record information for production of statistics in lieu of filling questionnaires based on the respondent's consent as well as requesting report of the existing data held by enterprises also in lieu of filling questionnaires. As for administrative statistics produced from administrative record information, use of administrative record information shall be promoted through enhancement of provided information based on user needs. Also sharing and horizontal application of information about the use status and issues among the Statistics Commission and ministries shall be promoted.

In addition to these initiatives, each ministry shall continue to scrutinize and consider the availability of administrative record information in advance of planning statistical surveys to reduce or replace survey items. In principle, it is required to go through the confirmation in examinations for the approval of statistical surveys by the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications, and deliberations of Fundamental Statistical Surveys by Statistics Commission. In this preliminary scrutiny and consideration of the availability of administrative record information, initiatives shall be promoted in cooperation with the Assistant Minister for Evidence-based Policymaking (tentative name; the same applies hereinafter) of each ministry.

b) Use of big data held by private sector

While the Basic Plan on the Advancement of Public and Private Sector Data Utilization promotes the use of public and private data, also in the field of official statistics, some ministries are considering to use big data held by private enterprises, etc. including POS<sup>15</sup> data as new statistical indicators and to use it for analysis.

Meanwhile, as for the use of big data, the Basic Policy requests to make efforts on the effective use by ministries through (1) making efforts on comprehending economic activities that have not been comprehended by existing statistics so that it will contribute to grasping business trends, (2)

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<sup>15</sup> Point of Sales

considering development of methods to use POS data for detailed analysis as new indicators for comprehending business trends, (3) promoting studies towards comprehending the trend of transfers among regions using logistics data, and (4) periodically exchanging information at the Statistics Commission regarding the use status of big data by ministries and how the data provision from enterprises shall be, ensuring the quality of data, development of human resources with special expertise.

Under such a situation, since there is a need to conduct individual and specific studies depending on the data characteristics (e.g., bias), data format, method of provision from enterprises in using big data held by private enterprises, etc., as for how the use status by ministries and data provision from enterprises shall be, information shall be shared among ministries and efforts shall be made to solve the individual issues pointed out in the Basic Policy, with the Statistics Commission playing the central role.

## (2) Promotion of online surveys

With regard to online surveys, based on the 2nd Term Master Plan, ministries have worked on (1) consideration of introduction of online surveys during survey planning, (2) confirmation in examinations for the approval of statistical surveys by the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications, and in deliberations of Fundamental Statistical Surveys by the Statistics Commission, (3) formulation of the “Action Policy Concerning Promotion of Online Surveys” (Agreement by the Online Surveys Promotion Council on April 17, 2015) that serves as the basis of these initiatives, (4) improvement and expansion of the functions of the “Portal Site of Official Statistics Online Survey” that can also be used by mobile devices, (5) information sharing among ministries and provision of support for related initiatives. As a result, the implementation rate of online surveys has reached around 80% in FY2016.

Meanwhile, the Final Report requests to make introduction of online surveys further earlier, improvement of the utilization rate of online surveys. To promote them, the Final Report also requests the improvement of the convenience of survey systems, as well as making online surveys available for smart phones and tablets.

Amid the environment surrounding statistical surveys becoming ever more severe, introduction of online surveys and improvement of online response rates are becoming an effective means for realizing not only contribution to ensuring the accuracy through improved questionnaire collection and responding rates but also better efficiency of statistical survey operations while making efforts to reduce the burden on respondents and improvement of convenience.

Therefore, ministries shall, in principle, continue to consider introduction of online surveys and measures to improve the online response rate while planning statistical surveys. At the same time, ministries as a whole shall work on improving and expanding the functions of the “Portal Site of Official Statistics Online Survey” based on the prevalence of ICT.

### (3) Reduction of the burden on respondents and comprehension of statistical needs

In producing and providing official statistics, it is important to comprehend statistical needs that emerge associated with changes in the socio-economic situation, and to appropriately respond to the needs, from the viewpoint of improving the usefulness of official statistics. On the other hand, attention needs to be paid to avoiding imposing excessive burdens on respondents which would result in less willingness to cooperate in statistical surveys and eventually may affect the accuracy of results of statistical surveys.

Based on the 2nd Term Master Plan, ministries are working on the development and improvement of statistics taking into account needs through: reviews of questionnaire surveys on statistical needs; sharing of information on statistical needs pertaining to improvement of their statistics; creating opportunity to exchange opinions with statistics users during the Statistics Commission.

Meanwhile, the Basic Policy and the Final Report call for (1) establishing opportunities of periodic opinion exchanges including policy makers and building a system for systematically collecting and reflecting suggestions for improvement, (2) collecting respondents' opinions and publishing draft actions at the Statistics Commission, (3) cooperating with the EBPM Promotion Committee and the Director-General for EBPM Promotion, (4) promoting discussions and coordination for handling of overlaps, paying attention to that respondents are feeling overlaps among various surveys by local public entities, incorporated administrative agencies and private sector as burdens, and (5) comprehending and reflecting about the needs in the process of planning statistical surveys.

Therefore, while paying attention to reducing and controlling the burden on respondents, in order to promote to produce and provide official statistics that appropriately reflect socio-economic changes, MIC shall regularly comprehend respondents' opinions and statistical needs and then establish and disseminate relevant measures in cooperation with other ministries and the EBPM Promotion Committee. While doing so, MIC shall periodically conduct follow up of the measure implementation status with the Statistics Commission playing the central role. Also, paying attention to the fact that respondents are feeling overlaps among various surveys or questionnaires by local public entities, incorporated administrative agencies and private sector as burdens, in order to promote discussions and coordination with these entities, MIC shall conduct information provision, communication, to relevant entities as necessary.

Additionally, when planning and designing statistical surveys, ministries shall strive for reducing the burden on respondents, making appropriate responses to statistical needs, and improving the efficiency of clerical work for the survey, by making the comprehension of statistical needs and respondents' opinions and their reflection a principle, and by checking the presence and location of necessary data in advance with the Vice Commissioner for Policy Planning of their own ministry.

Moreover, during examinations for the approval of statistical surveys, MIC

shall promote initiatives of ministries by conducting follow up of the above initiatives. Also, MIC shall make efforts towards simpler and faster examinations for approval processes of statistical surveys, by using results of statistics review and the data reviews with the Vice Commissioner for Policy Planning conducted by ministries.

## 2 Securing the quality of statistics

### (1) Development of statistical standards and improvement of comparability between statistics

#### a) Development of statistical standards

Statistical standards play important roles as the technical standards for securing integrity and comprehensiveness when producing official statistics, thus it is necessary to accurately establish and review them when needed.

With regard to the statistical standards based on the Article 28 of the Statistics Act, the 2nd Term Master Plan stipulates that the necessity of revisions around every five years must be considered based on changes in socio-economic situations, while paying attention to the perspective of continuity.

Meanwhile, towards the shift of the National Accounts and their basis Input-Output Tables to an SUT system, the Final Report urges reviewing the Japan Standard Industrial Classification, and establishing the Product Classification gradually.

Additionally, in order to respond to diversification of economic activities at enterprises such as the sharing economy, it has become necessary to work on expansion of coverage of economic statistics, including comprehension of corporations that do not have full-time board members or workers.

Taking into account such a situation, as for statistical standards, consideration shall be continuously given to the necessity of revisions around every five years based on socio-economic changes, while paying attention to the perspective of continuity. In particular, regarding the Japan Standard Industrial Classification, necessary revisions shall be made toward shifting to the SUT system, and handling of corporations that do not have full-time board members or workers shall be organized.

#### b) Improvement of comparability between statistics

Regarding categories for representation such as regional divisions, age groups and scales of business establishment used in the tabulation of statistics, standardizing them is useful in improving the consistency and comparability among statistics.

The 2nd Term Master Plan prescribed that consideration should be given to how the standard categories for representation such as about age, establishment scale, shall be. Now the scrutiny of the current conditions is in progress mainly with a focus on the Fundamental Statistics.

Further, regarding statistical survey data by prefecture registered in the

statistical information database of the e-Stat, the Basic Policy and the Final Report request adding a function to obtain data by main regional block and giving thought to how regional division shall be based on user needs since regional divisions vary depending on the statistics. On the other hand, addition of a function to obtain data by main regional block in the e-Stat has been already achieved.

For these reasons, in cooperation with other ministries, MIC shall improve comparability between statistics by considering how standardization of categories for representation such as age, establishment scale and regional division shall be while taking into account results of further comprehension of the current situation and trend in other countries, through obtaining conclusions one by one and promoting their application. However, regarding categories for representation, attention shall be paid to the possibility that uniform standardization may cause issues since the categories are related to the purpose of producing statistics, ensuring their accuracy.

## (2) Securing and improving the quality of statistical surveys entrusted to private enterprises

In order to efficiently produce official statistics and provide highly useful statistics in a time manner, it is continuously important to concentrate limited statistical resources in core operations (e.g., survey planning, analysis) and in operations pertaining to statistics that have great effect over the management of national administration, as well as to effectively and properly use private enterprises with excellent expertise and resources.

Amid the environment surrounding statistical surveys becoming ever more severe, based on the 2nd Term Master Plan, ministries have been making revisions to add the view of a process assurance to the “Guidelines Concerning Private Entrustment of Statistical Surveys” (Agreement at a conference among directors-general and directors of the main statistics departments of CAO and each ministry held on March 31, 2005; last revision on March 3, 2017). Additionally, MIC has been working on the proper utilization of private enterprises by, for instance, encouraging ministries to make improvements on specifications in line with the said Guidelines.

In the future, from the viewpoint of more effective utilization of private enterprises, the foundation to support statistics across the border between the public and private sectors shall be promoted through development of private enterprises specialized in statistical surveys, expansion of the range of such private enterprises, etc., and private enterprises shall be actively utilized for operations such as conducting surveys by mail or online surveys and inquiry responses in which private enterprises have excellent expertise.

Additionally, ministries shall promote scoring auctions and multi-year contracts which are considered effective in securing and improving the quality of statistics, share cases, etc. that can give useful information about private entrustment, and work on reexamination of specifications based on the said Guidelines, realization

of process control, and information sharing including ex-post verification of private entrusted operations.

(3) Support for research on issues common to statistics, and for ministries, etc.

Based on the 2nd Term Master Plan, ministries have been building a system to share results of research on statistics utilizing the government-wide information board. However, support for R&D remains at a trial stage.

Meanwhile, the Basic Policy requests research towards utilization of big data, and the Final Report promotes research based on the technology trend of the times, such as advancement of information collection method.

For these reasons, regarding plans and results of common R&D, ministries shall continue to enhance information sharing. Additionally, utilizing its expertise, the MIC Statistical Research and Training Institute shall continue to conduct R&D on advanced statistical technologies and enhance support for ministries. Meanwhile, as for R&D at ministries, the Statistics Commission shall establish a system for providing technical support and advice as needed and commence initiatives at an early stage.

Further, in order to enhancement of survey methods for statistical surveys based on the development of ICT, etc., MIC shall continue research on enhancement of information collection methods through the use of AI<sup>16</sup>, etc. At the same time, MIC shall promote studies on integrated estimation on results of random sampling surveys carried out by enumerators and results of surveys carried out by other means (e.g., monitoring survey), and reflect the results on prioritization of work of enumerators.

As for R&D of more advanced statistical technologies, efforts shall be made to promote research and solve common issues by actively conducting joint studies with external research institutions such as universities.

(4) Promotion of statistics review, quality control, etc.

a) Statistics review, etc.

Based on the 2nd Term Master Plan, ministries have been making efforts on efficient production and provision of statistics, while securing their accuracy, through reviewing survey items, use of administrative record information, promotion of online surveys, etc. However, amid the environment surrounding statistical surveys becoming ever more severe, it has become more important to concentrate limited statistical resources by reducing the burden on respondents and improving the efficiency of production and provision of statistics.

Meanwhile, the Basic Policy asks for review of work and process pertaining to dissemination of statistical surveys and good practices, as well as promotion to organization and rationalization, along with efficiency improvement of statistics with high sense of redundancy or a low use rate. Additionally, the Final

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<sup>16</sup> Artificial Intelligence

Report urges (1) implementation of monitoring and continued improvement through periodic review by a Statistics Review Team to be established in the Statistics Commission, (2) reduction of statistics-related public and private cost across respondents, survey conductors, statistics producers and users by 20% in three years, etc.

For these reasons, in cooperation with MIC and other ministries, the Statistics Commission shall conduct statistics review utilizing the BPR method used for operational reform in the private sector, targeting existing overall government statistics, every three to five years, from the viewpoint of comprehensively propelling initiatives for improving the accuracy of statistics, streamlining the operations, promoting the use of statistics, reducing the burden on respondents, etc. In so doing, the Statistics Commission shall set common viewpoints for each stage of survey planning, conducting, examination/tabulation as well as provision/utilization of statistics.

Regarding the Statistical Accuracy Check (Standard Check<sup>17</sup> and Optional Check<sup>18</sup>) conducted by MIC in FY2017, as its usefulness has been confirmed (e.g., it clarified some issues), the Standard Check shall be conducted integrally with statistics review, and the Optional Check shall be systematically conducted by, for instance, selecting the target statistics to conduct continuously and efficiently. In addition, in regards to the issues that have been revealed by the Statistical Accuracy Check in FY2017, ministries shall work on resolving the issues steadily within the period of the 3rd Term Master Plan, and MIC shall follow up the progress. At the same time, examination for the approval of statistical surveys by MIC shall be made more simplified and faster along with the initiative of statistics review and Vice Commissioner for Policy Planning, etc.

Further, ministries shall systematically secure statistical resources that will become needed for assured implementation of the statistical reform. Meanwhile, as for the target to reduce statistics-related public and private cost by 20% in three years that was given in the Final Report, ministries shall make efforts to realize it through formulation and implementation of cost reduction plans, while MIC boosts the realization by following up on the progress and sharing information. (Additional cost incurred for conducting initiatives of the statistical reform based on the Final Report shall not be included in the cost reduction target.) In reducing statistics-related public and private cost, attention shall be paid to the viewpoint of promoting utilization of statistics, and the Statistics Commission shall closely monitor the progress so that abolition of surveys against statistical needs, reduction in survey items, reduction in the accuracy of survey results, loss of comparability between different statistics, etc. do not

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<sup>17</sup> Refers to checking of the state of publication (so-called “visualization”) of information related to the accuracy of each statistics by common standards.

<sup>18</sup> Refers to checking by (1) checking the state of conformity to the population, (2) analysis of discrepancy from other statistics, (3) checking of missing data, (4) various simulation checking, (5) comprehensive checking, or (6) special checking.

occur.

b) Promotion of quality control, etc.

Promotion of EBPM requires establishing a cycle in which the improvement of policies by comprehending policy issues and the prediction, measurement and evaluation of policy effects are organically interlinked with the development and improvement of data such as statistics, between policy departments and statistics departments, etc.

Based on the 1st Term Master Plan, the “Guidelines Concerning Quality Assurance of Official Statistics” that serve as a guideline for improving statistics based on statistical needs have been formulated at ministries. Based on the 2nd Term Master Plan, ministries have been proceeding with revisions for introducing the view of a process assurance into the Guidelines and with initiatives based on the Guidelines.

Meanwhile, in order to produce efficiently and provide highly useful statistics that meet the needs, ministries have to continue to work on the statistics quality assurance activities, make improvements to their statistics and statistical surveys, and propel the understanding and use of official statistics by further improving the transparency of the statistical production process.

Also, since the Final Report proposes initiatives of evaluations by third parties, like statistics review and evaluation by the evaluation team, regarding the Guidelines that serve as a guidance of initiatives at ministries, ceaseless revision of the Guidelines shall be promoted based on the results of research at relevant academic societies, international trends, etc., in addition to the trend of the said evaluations and the implementation status of quality assurance activities at ministries.

### 3 Promotion of use of statistics and improvement of the survey environment

#### (1) Promotion of provision and use of questionnaire information, etc.

Provision and use of questionnaire information, etc. are an initiative for effective utilization of existing data as they may enable responding to needs that were not expected by the survey conductors or data holders.

Based on the 2nd Term Master Plan, relevant ministries have been working on (1) consideration toward expanding types and years of statistical surveys subject to tailor-made tabulations, easing of use conditions, etc., (2) simplification of procedures associated with expansion of types and years of statistical surveys providing anonymized data and with adding new annual data to anonymized data, (3) consideration toward practical application of on-site use, (4) establishment of systems and measures to allow applicants to use individual data layout, etc. prior to provision of questionnaire information, (5) appropriate control of questionnaire information, etc., and other initiatives.

Meanwhile, regarding the provision and use of questionnaire information, etc., the Basic Policy and the Final Report request (1) consideration on simplifying

tailor-made tabulations and expansion of statistics which questionnaire information will be provided, (2) enabling use of administrative record information at on-site facilities for use of questionnaire information, as well as consideration on legally defining the use at such facilities and promoting the development of those facilities, (3) consideration on the provision of anonymized data usable by the general public from regulatory and technical aspects, and commencement of provision, etc. Therefore, further initiatives must be promoted.

Also, amid the rise in the awareness of information control by the people and enterprises, efforts must be made to effectively use the questionnaire information, etc. in a more secure setting by flexibly responding to requests for provision and use of questionnaire information, etc. while maintaining trust from survey respondents.

For these reasons, as for expansion of on-site use with a higher security level, MIC shall work on development of the system infrastructure that is necessary for expanding on-site facilities and available statistical surveys and for statistical use of administrative record information. At the same time, MIC shall work on realization of a system, operation, etc. of central data control facilities, etc. that offer one-stop service for provision and utilization of questionnaire information, etc. In addition, including MIC, ministries shall consider how provision of questionnaire information, etc. depending on the security level of use environment, etc. shall be, with a focus on on-site use.

Further, in regards to provision of tailor-made tabulations and anonymized data, taking into account user needs, relevant ministries shall continue to work on adding types and years of statistical surveys provided and consider on further easing of use requirements, use promotion measures, etc. Moreover, regarding tailor-made tabulations, research shall be conducted toward practical application of on-demand tabulations that are more convenient, and efforts shall be made to further enhance information provision for users, including giving specific examples about use requirements, cost, etc. Additionally, as for anonymized data, toward providing it in a form which realizes use by a broader range of people, initiatives toward early provision shall be implemented, based on necessary consideration from regulatory and technical aspects.

With regard to questionnaire information, etc., each ministry shall continue with proper control, and shall develop an environment which enables public viewing of research results, etc. using questionnaire information, while paying attention to list and search functions.

In implementing such initiatives, attention shall be paid not to impinge on individual and corporate rights and interests, safety of the country, etc.

**(2) Promotion of sharing and provision of statistical data based on using the Inter-Ministry Information System for Official Statistics, etc.**

In order to promote the use of statistical data throughout society, it is important to develop and enhance the infrastructure pertaining to the use of statistical data and to provide statistical data in a usable format.

Based on the 2nd Term Master Plan, regarding the e-Stat, MIC has been working on enhancement of its functions for advanced use of statistical data, such as an API<sup>19</sup> function, small-region analysis using maps (jSTAT MAP), and statistics linked open data (LOD). Additionally, in order to promote registration to statistical information database and statistical data with an API function in the e-Stat, (1) support for registration of results of General Statistical Surveys that have not been registered, (2) simplification of operation procedures, (3) automation of data registration by introducing an API function for registration, etc. have been promoted.

Meanwhile, regarding the e-Stat, the Final Report requests (1) addition of a search function for administrative record information utilized for statistical use and promotion of publishing of administrative statistics, reduction of clerical work on publishing, (2) improvement of usability of data search, (3) provision of data in a machine-readable format, (4) acceleration of data provision and establishment of a setting where users can automatically obtain data by an API function, and so on. Additionally, the Public-Private Data Use Promotion Basic Plan calls for provision of statistical data in a format suited for machine reading as part of promotion of open statistical data and its advancement.

For these reasons, regarding the e-Stat, MIC shall promote further improvement by adding an item search function for administrative record information used in producing statistics, and by taking user needs and useful functions of statistics websites of overseas governments and international organizations into account. Also, regarding the statistical data of the government, each ministry shall make registration of data to the e-Stat in principle and make efforts to improve the usability for the users of statistics by publishing data in a machine-readable format at the time of registration, systematically providing data using statistical information database with much higher usability in particular, and by registering other necessary information (e.g., outline of survey) when using the statistics. Meanwhile, MIC shall continue sharing such information and provide support for promoting data registration at ministries and make efforts on streamlining operations pertaining to registration of statistical data by proceeding with standardization of the questionnaire information saving format, etc. in cooperation with other ministries.

### (3) Improvement of statistical literacy

For the people and business operators to more appropriately use statistical data, improvement of statistical literacy<sup>20</sup> is necessary, and improvement of statistical literacy at each stage from primary education to higher education is considered particularly important. In addition, improvement of statistical literacy is effective in fostering awareness of business operators and the general public to cooperate in

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<sup>19</sup> Application programming interface; an interface for building software applications to enable a computer program to automatically obtain statistical data

<sup>20</sup> The ability to understand the usefulness of statistics and use statistical data

statistical surveys.

Based on the 2nd Term Master Plan, each ministry has been working on the enhancement of statistics education including (1) enhancement of the training content of “Seminar on Statistics Education for teachers” targeting teachers, (2) expansion of training opportunities by holding “Seminars for Statistics teachers by region, (3) publication of learning workbooks, and (4) opening and enhancement of free learning websites such as the “Data Science Online Course”.

Meanwhile, as measures to improve statistical literacy, the Final Report calls for collaboration and cooperation with statistical education at universities and promotion of common understanding about the necessity, status, etc. of statistical surveys taking advantage of places of education.

For these reasons, MIC shall work on enhancement of current initiatives (e.g., development of free learning websites and materials, provision of web contents for teachers for each stage of elementary, junior high and senior high school), active holding of seminars for teachers and lecture sessions for pupils and students, and preparation and provision of teaching materials describing the necessity, etc., of statistical surveys. At the same time, in cooperation with relevant ministries, MIC shall promote collaboration and cooperation with higher education institutions and shall proceed with enhancement of lecture courses for university students and adults and dispatching lecturers to professional postgraduate courses, etc.

Moreover, in order to further promote statistics education, etc. by local public entities, MIC shall share information about initiatives on statistics education, etc. at the national government and local public entities and horizontally apply them. Further, since appointment of student enumerators implemented at some prefectures is an initiative that contributes not only to securing enumerators but also to improving statistical literacy through experiencing enumerator work, in order to further propel this initiative, collaboration with local universities and prefectures shall be promoted.

#### (4) Promotion of understanding and securing sense of fairness in respondents

Amid environment surrounding statistical surveys becoming ever more severe, in order to realize smooth and efficient conduct of statistical surveys and improvement of statistical accuracy, it is important to further enhance initiatives for promoting the understanding of respondents about statistical surveys and to secure the sense of fairness in respondents about Fundamental Statistical Surveys that impose obligation to report.

Based on the 2nd Term Master Plan, each ministry has been working on information sharing among ministries and with local public entities as well as promotion of understanding of respondents, taking into account the “Action Guidelines for Fostering the Understanding of Citizens for the Statistical Surveys” (Agreement at a conference for directors-general and directors of the main

statistics departments of the Cabinet Office and related ministries on March 30, 2010; last revision on January 31, 2013), “Fundamental View on Dealing with Acts that Hinder Smooth Conduct of Statistical Surveys” (Office of the Director - General for Policy Planning (Statistical Standards), MIC in 2013), etc.

Meanwhile, the Final Report requests (1) active conduct of on-site inspection, etc.<sup>21</sup> based on Article 15 of the Statistics Act, (2) enhancement of collaboration with condominium management associations, etc. through regular meetings, etc., (3) enhancement of publication, etc. including promotion of common understanding about obligation to report and legal penalties, and other initiatives.

Additionally, considering an increase in the number of dual income households (increased by about 10% in 2015 compared to 2010<sup>22</sup>) and increase in the number of condominiums fitted with automatic lock doors (increased by slightly over 30% in 2013 compared to 2008<sup>23</sup>), improvement of the survey environment especially at residential complexes including condominiums fitted with automatic lock doors has become important.

For these reasons, in order to secure the sense of fairness in respondents who cooperate in statistical surveys and the accuracy of results of statistical surveys, with MIC playing the core role, relevant ministries must actively conduct on-site inspection, etc. when reports are not easily obtained from enterprises, etc. in conducting Fundamental Statistical Surveys. In selecting statistical surveys subject to application of on-site inspection, etc., the basic criteria shall be (1) the targets of the survey are establishments, enterprises, etc., (2) non-submission of questionnaire causes difficulty in imputation, etc. of the results, and (3) the survey imposes a great impact on other statistical surveys (e.g., used as population information). In selecting the subjects of on-site inspection, etc., the basic idea shall be any entity that falls under at least one of the following: (1) not submitting even after continual requests, (2) not submitting for multiple surveys in succession, and (3) not submitting as a systematic response, and the subjects shall be determined specifically for each survey taking into account the impact on the results of the statistical survey. Additionally, in order to secure the effectiveness of on-site inspection, etc., when conducting on-site inspection, etc., the principle approach shall be to request attendance of person(s) who can make necessary responses (e.g., those in charge of accounting) after notifying the subject enterprise, etc. in advance, and to publish the implementation status of on-site inspection, etc. after the event. As a provisional measure, in order to make these implementation items, etc. more concrete, taking into account the importance of on-site inspection, etc., MIC and METI shall consider this while keeping the Economic Census for Business Activity in mind.

Also, in order to improve the environment of surveys at residential complexes, MIC and relevant ministries shall implement initiatives for, for instance, regular

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<sup>21</sup> Request for submission of materials, inspection of books, documents, and other articles or questions to persons concerned by entering into necessary places

<sup>22</sup> According to the “Labour Force Survey” (MIC).

<sup>23</sup> According to the “House and Land Statistics Survey” (MIC).

opinion exchange with condominium management-related organizations, etc.

Further, each ministry shall work on propelling and enhancing initiatives based on the “Action Guidelines for Fostering the Understanding of Citizens for the Statistical Surveys” and information sharing and horizontal application of good practices, etc. about response to people who do not cooperate in statistical surveys or about publication including local public entities that conduct surveys.

(5) Preparations for large-scale disasters, etc.

Official statistics play an important role when a large-scale disaster occurs, as they are used as data for comprehending damage situation and estimating the impact as well as for formulating a recovery program and evaluating the status of recovery.

With that in mind, based on the 2nd Term Master Plan, MIC has formulated the “Policies for Large-scale Disasters” (Decision by the Director-General for Policy Planning (Statistical Standards), MIC, on March 30, 2016), yet individual action plans have not been formulated at each ministry.

For that reason, each ministry shall work on the formulation of action plans based on the Policies for Large-scale Disasters and shall revise such policies taking into account the issues identified in the formulation process of those action plans, with MIC playing the core role.

4 Securing statistical resources and development of statistical human resources

(1) Systematic securing of statistical resources and their redistribution, optimal allocation, etc.

In order to realize the statistical reform and solve various issues in statistical administration through steady promotion of the 3rd Term Master Plan, securing of statistical resources, development of statistical human resources, etc. through the national government and local public entities have become essential. To that end, ministries as a whole shall promote the initiatives below, with the Statistics Commission playing the central role.

a) Systematic securing of statistical resources and their redistribution, optimal allocation

Based on the 2nd Term Master Plan, each ministry has been making efforts to secure statistical resources. However, the number of staff engaged in statistics is on a declining trend (1,990 as of April 1, 2013 and 1,895 as of April 1, 2017).

Meanwhile, the Basic Policy calls for drastic revision and enhancement of the statistics-related budget, organization and fixed number of regular personnel, etc., enhancement and prioritized allocation of the budget, and promotion of reviews toward formulation of an implementation system for efficient statistical production by the national government and local public entities. Additionally, the Final Report requests (1) effective use of existing statistical resources and

systematic securing of statistical resources that become necessary for assured implementation of the statistical reform, and (2) development of clear-cut systems which promote redistribution and optimal allocation of statistical resources and enhance incentives for addressing new issues.

For these reasons, as for statistical resources, ministries shall effectively use existing statistical resources by, for instance, promoting their redistribution and optimal allocation, and shall systematically secure statistical resources necessary for realizing the statistical reform including improvement of economic statistics based on GDP statistics and reestablishment of statistics system and promotion of utilization of statistics from the viewpoint of users. Additionally, in order to provide support for securing statistical resources, with the Statistics Commission playing the central role, MIC shall determine areas, etc. to concentrate statistical resources in. As for securing human resources, industry-government-academia cooperation shall be promoted to secure persons with expertise.

Further, in regard to securing statistical resources, as for new technologies and effective initiatives that should be shared with other ministries, MIC shall support and promote initiatives by ministries for securing statistical resources by keeping promoting information sharing among ministries through the Statistics Commission, etc.

The National Statistics Center plays the core role in provision and utilization of questionnaire information, etc. and enhancement of information provision functions through the Inter-Ministry Information System for Official Statistics. When it comes to provision and utilization of questionnaire information, etc., as Section 3 (1) above requests promotion of on-site use as a new provision form and Section 3 (2) above calls for government-wide enhancement of information provision functions by, for instance, provision of statistical information in a machine-readable format, MIC shall continue to make efforts on securing needed resources for steadily promoting these initiatives.

#### b) Cooperation with and support for local public entities

Local public entities play important roles not only in the aspect of conducting surveys implemented by ministries but also in use, awareness raising, etc. of statistics in local regions. Therefore, based on the 2nd Term Master Plan, each ministry has been making efforts to (1) reduce and level the workload of local public entities by reviewing survey plans, (2) enhance and support representation by region, (3) review the scope of expenses entrusted to local public entities for statistical survey affairs by the national government, etc.

Additionally, the Final Report requests (1) to utilize the future vision that is formulated by MIC for promoting reviewing, advancing, etc. of work at local statistical systems (e.g., prefectural statistics divisions) to provide necessary support for local statistical systems that propose review and advancement plans, (2) to consider the ideal support and estimation/provision method for additional surveys toward enhancement of representation by prefecture, and to implement it

when available, (3) to develop a framework of personnel exchange between local statistical systems and national statistical systems, (4) to enhance online training courses utilizing the Statistical Research and Training Institute and to regularly provide analysis cases, etc., (5) to enhance collaboration between local statistical systems and universities, etc.

Meanwhile, under the severe financial conditions at both the national government and local public entities, nothing seems to be successful in stopping the decline in the number of prefectural personnel exclusively engaged in statistical affairs.

For these reasons, each ministry shall continue to work on reduction, etc. of the workload of local public entities through scrutiny of statistical surveys via local public entities and support for enumerators, by considering, for instance, adoption of an appropriate and efficient survey method taking into account characteristics of respondents, including active use of private enterprises with a focus on work in which private enterprises have excellent expertise.

Additionally, regarding clerical work, etc. the national government entrusts to prefectural statistics divisions, in order to promote review, advancement, etc. of survey methods and examination methods in accordance with the actual condition of regions, with MIC playing the central role, relevant ministries shall provide support necessary for the said review, advancement, etc. taking into account the results of test operation with the local public entities that decided to cooperate. Meanwhile, taking into account the actual situations of local public entities, utilization needs, etc., in order to support promotion of EBPM at local public entities, efforts shall be made to improve technical support for additional surveys toward expansion of representation by prefecture, research on estimation/provision methods, etc.

Further, as part of support, etc. for local public entities, relevant ministries shall promote personnel exchange between staff of local public entities and staff of ministries, and MIC shall work on enhancement of online training courses collaborating with the Statistical Research and Training Institute, periodic provision of information on excellent analysis cases, technologies, etc., sharing experiences about advanced cases on expert utilization that is useful for collaboration with local universities, etc., and preparation, provision, etc. of a list of experts.

#### c) Securing, developing, and support for enumerators

Enumerators play important roles in ensuring the accuracy of the results of statistical surveys. However, their aging is advancing, and reduction of their workloads and securing and capacity development of them have become major issues.

Based on the 2nd Term Master Plan, in cooperation with local public entities, each ministry has been making efforts to promote common understanding about the role and importance of enumerators and has been continuously implementing

initiatives on securing and developing enumerators, improving their treatment, and reducing their burden. However, it can hardly be said that the efforts have produced any noteworthy results.

Meanwhile, the Final Report requests (1) considering and implementing specific measures for improving the skills of enumerators, (2) providing support for enumerators by ICT, call centers, etc., (3) establishing a system for taking action for difficult-to-contact respondents, improving the survey environment, etc., (4) concentrating resources, through statistics review, into survey work which can only be done by enumerators, (5) increasing and enhancing training opportunities such as online courses, and so on.

For these reasons, from the perspective of effective use of limited resource of enumerators, regarding statistical surveys targeting establishments, enterprises, etc., relevant ministries shall consider step-wise transition to surveys by mail and online surveys as much as possible, taking into account statistics review, etc., while paying attention to the characteristics of each survey, development status of the Business Register, and ensuring the accuracy of survey results. However, as for some surveys including those conducted by the national government for the purpose of providing population information for many statistical surveys and those that the results are used as important basis of economic and fiscal management, reduction in the accuracy of their results may cause major trouble in the management of national administration and careful and thorough deliberation shall be carried out on them.

Additionally, under the recognition that enumerators are indispensable in properly conducting statistical surveys and securing the necessary accuracy of survey results, in cooperation with local public entities, relevant ministries shall continue to work on securing and developing enumerators by, for instance, promoting common understanding about the role and importance of enumerators, and shall work on improvement of their treatment, etc. that contribute to their securing and development.

Further, relevant ministries shall make efforts on securing the quality of enumerators and trust from the people by improving the skills of enumerators through (1) promotion of initiatives toward appointment of students, participants of lifelong study courses, etc., (2) sharing knowledges and experiences, etc. of excellent enumerators by, for instance, enhancement of training through study, analysis, etc. on activity conditions of enumerators, (3) enhancement of training on online surveys and support utilizing ICT, call centers, etc.

## (2) Securing and developing statistical human resources

To ensure the quality of statistics and propel promotion of use and improvement of the environment of statistics while trying to streamline production of statistics and reduce the burden on respondents under the limited statistical resources, improvement of the skills of individual staff members is essential.

Based on the 2nd Term Master Plan, ministries have promoted establishment of

multi-dimensional initiatives by enhancing personnel exchange and training, etc. In addition, based on the needs of the national government, local public entities, training participants, etc., the Statistical Research and Training Institute, MIC, has been working on enhancement of training content and opening of new MOOC<sup>24</sup> type online courses that enable participation even while busy with work.

In addition, the Final Report requests (1) to expand and enhance statistical training targeting staff of the national government and local public entities in general, (2) to dispatch staff to ministries that can offer experience of practical work that is effective in terms of human resource development, and develop a framework of human resource development through OJT, training, etc., (3) to consider measures to facilitate mid- to long-term securing of human resources with special expertise (e.g., young researchers) necessary for realizing the statistical reform with a focus on shifting to an SUT system, and so on.

Additionally, as for human resources in the statistics departments of ministries, in a form being interlinked with the 3rd Term Master Plan, the EBPM Promotion Committee and the Statistics Commission prescribe to consider (1) arranging necessary posts, (2) employing, securing, and training human resources, (3) evaluating and utilizing skills of staff, (4) systematic personnel reshuffling and work experience gaining, (5) measures for personnel exchange, etc. and thereby to formulate the “Policy Concerning Securing, Developing, etc. of Human Resources for Promoting EBPM”.

Therefore, ministries shall promote initiatives based on the formulated policy on securing, development, etc. of human resources so as not to push the initiatives of the statistical reform backward.

Additionally, amid an environment surrounding statistical surveys that is becoming more severe, securing the accuracy of statistics calls for advanced statistics knowledge in producing and using statistics, such as imputation of missing data and estimation. That requires active use of human resources with special expertise in the industry and academic sectors and smooth procurement of such human resources in a mid- to long-term. For that reason, towards smooth procurement of young researchers at universities, etc., each ministry shall make efforts to develop a work environment that enables both engaging in production of official statistics and activities as a researcher like exchange at academic society and writing papers by, for instance, reduction of overtime work and use of a flextime system. Further, initiatives for providing information to facilitate recognition of national statistics departments as an option of a future workplace for young researchers shall be promoted, such as awareness raising activities and information collection via academic societies, exchange of information with universities, and provision of information on universities that highly acknowledge work experience at a national institution.

Meanwhile, MIC shall conduct (1) expansion and enhancement of training content including utilization of results of R&D on advanced statistical

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<sup>24</sup> Massive Open Online Course

technologies, such as use of big data, etc. and methods of sampling and estimation in cooperation with universities, etc., (2) making online courses interactive for its effective implementation (e.g., acceptance of questions from participants), enhancement of systems to withstand huge traffic to address an increase in the number of persons expected to take part in the courses, and (3) dispatching lecturers to ministries and local public entities. Further, from the viewpoint of promoting EBPM in addition to the viewpoint of developing human resources in the statistics departments, in order to encourage staff outside the statistics departments to obtain knowledge about statistics, MIC shall work on selection of items that should be widely learnt by staff of national government and local public entities, development of training curriculums, expansion of training opportunities, etc., in addition to enhancement of training for the purpose of obtaining not only knowledge and techniques about theories and analysis methods necessary for production and use of statistics, but also statistical thinking, etc.

## **IV. Promotion of the 3rd Term Master Plan**

### **1 Effective and efficient implementation of measures**

In order to make sure that the 3rd Term Master Plan is practically effective and the included tasks are implemented, it is important to share information about the progress of initiatives in a timely and appropriate manner and to enhance and promote coordination and cooperation where needed, in addition to developing the infrastructure for promotion. Further, it is necessary to flexibly and swiftly address various issues that may newly emerge in the future associated with the progress in the drastic reform of Japan's statistics system.

For these reasons, with the Secretary of each ministry playing the core role in lieu of the existing Official Statistics Master Plan Promotion Committee, a integrated promotion system of ministries shall be developed and a system to swiftly solve issues shall be reestablished by, for instance, forming working groups under the system to determine various action policies, etc. and to promote realization of the statistical reform through integrated efforts of ministries, including addressing issues that will emerge in the future.

Meanwhile, the Statistics Commission shall actively present its opinions through deliberations on the Report on the Situation of the Enforcement of the Statistics Act based on the provisions of Article 55, paragraph 3 of the Statistics Act, etc. to promote initiatives at each ministry, and shall endeavor to further promote various measures in the 3rd Term Master Plan, provide support, etc. through initiatives like those shown below.

- (1) Follow up annually on the statistical needs reflection status in planning and designing of statistical surveys at ministries and on the status of reduction of the burden on respondents. Additionally, invite suggestions of respondents, and follow up on the status of dissemination and consideration of relevant measures for those suggestions.
- (2) Share the results of examinations and deliberations at the request of Vice Commissioner for Policy Planning of each ministry, etc. or EBPM Promotion Committee with each ministry or the EBPM Promotion Committee.
- (3) Establish a Statistics Review Team consisting of statistics experts, users, respondents, operation consultants, etc. and conduct statistics review in accordance with the review plan (e.g., statistics subject to review) determined for each fiscal year.
- (4) Separate from the initiatives for deliberations pertaining to regular consultation and for statistics review, establish an evaluation team for reforming the aspect of the quality of statistics, technical aspect of statistical production, etc. and consider solving advanced and technical issues that cannot be easily addressed with statistics review, by actively taking in expertise of persons with expert knowledge in other areas related to statistics.
- (5) In formulating and implementing statistics-related public-private cost reduction plans, pay attention to the viewpoint of promoted use of statistical data as well as monitor so that abolition of surveys against statistical needs, reduction in

survey items, decline in the accuracy of survey results, loss of comparability between different statistics, etc. do not occur.

- (6) Regarding pilot tasks such as measurement of the diversifying service industry represented by the sharing economy and more appropriate comprehension of asset utilization situations, consider practical application based on relevant research results. Additionally, receive periodic reports from relevant ministries about information on international trends, etc. and conduct studies on them as necessary.
- (7) Regarding statistical use of administrative record information and various data held by local public entities and the private sector, provide support from the technical and neutral perspectives.
- (8) Regarding the “Guidelines for Making Decisions on Provision, etc., of Statistical Data, etc.” (tentative name) formulated by the EBPM Promotion Committee, make efforts to further promote the use of statistical data, etc. through, for instance, stating opinions at the request of the EBPM Promotion Committee.

In order to ensure well-balanced deliberations, regarding the composition of members, etc. of the Statistics Commission, measures shall be taken to secure persons with expertise and persons who represent the opinion of producers, respondents and users.

## 2 Securing consistency with various legal plans, etc. and promotion of accurate information dissemination

Official statistics are important information as a basis for the rational decision making of people and are related to all fields as information infrastructure for society. Therefore, the development of statistics in each field is mentioned as needed in the national government’s various legal plans, etc., from the perspective of promoting EBPM and improving international comparability. It is necessary for each ministry to take cooperative measures towards solving issues related to statistics.

Meanwhile, consideration is being given to review of statistics-related legislations, including enhancement of the functions of the Statistics Commission and expansion of provision and use of questionnaire information, etc.

For these reasons, in promoting the 3rd Term Master Plan, based on the trend of revision of statistics-related legislations, measures shall be promoted to contribute to the securing of credibility and objectivity in policies, while paying attention to consistency with the statistical development in various legal plans, etc. and with the various measures in relevant fields.

Since it is essential to obtain the people’s understanding and cooperation broadly in developing official statistics, continuous dissemination of accurate information to the public and comprehension and reflection of the people’s opinions and needs regarding official statistics shall be promoted.

## Appendix: Concrete Measures that Shall Be Established within the Next Five Years

### II. Matters Concerning the Development of Official Statistics

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
1 Promotion of development of cross-cutting and systematic economic statistics based on National Accounts (1) Development and improvement of basic statistics and accuracy improvement and enhancement of National Accounts a) Improvement of basic statistics that contribute to more accurate economic assessment, improvement of processing and estimation methods of National Accounts, etc.	◎ Regarding the Family Income and Expenditure Survey, toward full-scale introduction, functional expansion, etc. of online household accounts books, initiatives shall be gradually and smoothly promoted while paying attention to reducing of the burden on respondents, prefectural staff and enumerators.	MIC	Shall be implemented from 2019.
	◎ Regarding the Family Income and Expenditure Statistics, research pertaining to survey results imputation methods shall be promoted, and verification of impact of changing the survey method, information provision, etc. shall be enhanced.	MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	○ Regarding the Consumption Trend Index (CTI), efforts shall continue in connection with its development and accuracy improvement by, for instance, using research council under industry-government-academia cooperation, so that it will be useful as an economic indicator.	MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	◎ A conclusion shall be reached on methods to improve demanding on the submission of questionnaire and missing data imputation method in the Survey for Financial Statements Statistics of Corporations by Industry.	MOF	Conclusion shall be reached within FY2018.
	◎ Regarding the Survey for Financial Statements Statistics of Corporations by Industry, collaboration with private accounting software shall be enhanced and the burden on respondents shall be reduced by, for instance, making the specification of questionnaire in the online survey system open to the public, and thereby improvement of collection rate and acceleration of tabulation work shall be promoted.	MOF	Shall be implemented from FY2019.
	◎ Regarding the Quarterly Survey for Financial Statements Statistics of Corporations by Industry, efforts shall be made to partly produce it earlier by introducing surveys with limited subjects and items so that it will be in time for the primary QE, and a pilot survey shall be conducted and verified by obtaining cooperation from the economic sector about adding R&D investment in survey items under the presupposition of producing it earlier. Additionally, in cooperation with CAO, QE shall be estimated for the case reflecting the results of this pilot survey, verification shall be made including the burden on respondents while maintaining consistency with the annual estimate, and then deliberation shall be carried out on the policy towards improvement and a conclusion shall be reached.	MOF and CAO	A pilot survey shall be conducted and verification shall be started from FY 2019. Conclusion shall be reached as early as possible by the end of FY2022.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
	<p>◎ Regarding the sampling method for the capital group of 10-20 million yen in the Quarterly Survey for Financial Statements Statistics of Corporations by Industry, population lists shall be scrutinized without delay, consideration shall be given to stratified sampling by sales, number of employees, etc., and a conclusion shall be reached.</p>	MOF	Conclusion shall be reached by FY2022.
	<p>○ Regarding the Integrated Statistics on Construction Works, consistency between the completed amount of public work and financial statements of the national government and local public entities, public enterprises, etc. shall be checked, and deliberation on necessary improvement measures shall take place at an early stage for any inconsistency found.</p>	Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT)	Deliberation shall be carried out on necessary improvement measures, and conclusion shall be reached within FY2019.
	<p>◎ Regarding the public fixed capital formation, verification shall be made on the cause of discrepancy between QEs and the annual estimate, and deliberation on necessary improvement measures shall take place at an early stage based on the checking and consideration status of consistency between the completed amount in the Integrated Statistics on Construction Works and financial statements Works.</p>	CAO	Conclusion shall be reached quickly.
	<p>○ Regarding reinvestment earnings, under the cooperation of CAO, accounting methods shall be considered while taking into account harmony with the National Accounts. Also, consideration shall be given to ensuring transparency of difference between import/export portion of goods and trade statistics, by publishing “goods for resale through transactions between resident merchants”, etc.</p>	MOF and CAO	Conclusion shall be reached targeting FY2019.
	<p>○ Reduction of differences in data provided at each stage (QEs, annual estimate) from the primary statistics to estimation of the National Accounts is important in improving the accuracy of QEs and annual estimates. To that end, verification shall be made taking into account progress of the revision from the primary annual estimate to the secondary annual estimate from FY2015 onward, etc. Based on the results of the verification, regarding the primary statistics (e.g., “METI Current Survey of Production”, “Monthly Survey on Service Industries”) used for the National Accounts and room for improvement in the use method, deliberation shall be carried out through integrated efforts of relevant ministries in charge of primary statistics, and basic measures shall be summarized.</p>	CAO, MIC, METI and relevant ministries	For goods, verification shall be made by mid-2019, and conclusion shall be reached by the end of 2021. For services, verification shall be made by mid-2020, and conclusion shall be reached by the end of 2022.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
	○ Toward the next base revision of the Consumer Price Index, consideration shall be given to the possibility of comprehending ceremonial services and possibility of adaption of online sales prices, and a conclusion shall be reached.	MIC	Conclusion shall be reached by FY2018.
	○ Regarding quality adjustment of house rent in the Consumer Price Index, consideration shall be continued in and after FY2018 aiming to publish the reference index in the next base revision.	MIC	Conclusion shall be reached by the next base revision.
	○ The comprehensive research that was started in FY2017 shall be promoted regarding the method for grasping prices reflecting changes in the quality of medical and long-term care and education and its application, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW), Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), etc., the method to utilize results of relevant studies in cooperation with relevant ministries, etc, shall be deliberated, and the results shall be reported to the Statistical Commission regarding the method for grasping prices of construction (market price transaction basis) and retail services (margin), taking into account the results of joint studies conducted by the Bank of Japan with participation of MLIT and the results of studies conducted by the Bank of Japan in cooperation with MIC, METI, etc. on provision, etc. of data and related information.	CAO and relevant ministries	Shall be implemented by FY2022.
	◎ Regarding the Monthly Labour Statistics, toward the complete transition to rotation sampling in January 2022, initiatives shall be steadily and smoothly promoted in adequate cooperation with organizations conducting surveys. Additionally, regarding the dissemination of results in the meantime, consideration shall be given to avoiding confusion of users by, for instance, explaining that it is in a transition period, and reference indices by continuous samples shall be continuously published in and after FY2018.	MHLW	Shall be implemented by January 2022.
	◎ Regarding the Monthly Labour Statistics, in changing the population of this survey to the annual frame of the Business Register, consideration shall be given to the sampling method and recovery method.	MHLW	Shall be implemented from FY2018.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
	<p>◎ Based on improvement of basic statistics such as the Family Income and Expenditure Statistics, Financial Statements Statistics of Corporations by Industry, the Unincorporated Enterprise Statistics and construction-related statistics, ceaseless efforts shall be made to secure and improve the accuracy of estimation by, for instance, reviewing the integration ratio of demand-side and supply-side statistics in QEs.</p>	CAO	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	<p>◎ Regarding the preliminary figures on disposable income and savings of households, consideration shall be given to their publication as a reference series.</p>	CAO	Shall be implemented within FY2018.
	<p>◎ Regarding the handling of dissemination of QEs by production approach and income approach as reference series, a conclusion shall be reached.</p>	CAO	Conclusion shall be reached by the end of FY2018.
b) Development of National Accounts that are reviewed with a focus on production approaches	<p>◎ Regarding matters that are necessary for improving the accuracy of the National Accounts, a presentation of specific requests from CAO shall be received as early as possible in FY2018. After that, keeping in mind the pilot survey of 2021 Economic Census (to be conducted in FY2019) and the design of input survey that will be undertaken after that, the general framework of basic configuration of benchmark year SUT and Input-Output Tables shall be determined, taking into account the progress of development of basic statistics.</p>	Ministries and agencies that produce Input-Output Tables	Conclusion shall be reached by the end of FY2018.
	<p>◎ To realize a seamless design for the benchmark year SUT and interim year SUT based on the same concept to the extent possible, consideration shall be given to the basic configuration of the interim year SUT along with that of benchmark year SUT, and the general framework shall be established.</p>	CAO	Conclusion shall be reached by the end of FY2018.
	<p>◎ Regarding the sectors of the benchmark year SUT and Input-Output Tables, while maintaining consistency of the concept of sectorial classification, consideration shall be given to the size of domestic production and demand, similarity of production technology in industries, similarity of use of products, growth capability of industry/products and international comparability, while setting certain objective rules. In doing so, adequate attention shall be paid to devising survey technologies, reducing the burden on respondents, and appropriate distribution of limited statistical resources.</p>	Ministries and agencies that produce Input-Output Tables	Rules shall be set by the end of FY2018, and consideration shall be continued.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
	○ Regarding the establishment of the Product Classification, deliberation shall be promoted based on the characteristics of goods and services, and the Product Classification shall be established for the service sector by FY2018 and for all sectors, including the goods sector, by FY2023.	MIC	Product Classification shall be established for the service sector by FY2018 and for all sectors by FY2023.
	◎ Regarding the revision survey of the Building Starts Statistics, based on the accuracy verification results of the Statistics Commission, consideration shall be given to changing the sample design for improving its accuracy and reviewing the survey name and purposes, for which a conclusion shall be reached toward improvement, and enhancement of information provision for promoting understanding of users shall be propelled.	MLIT	Conclusion shall be reached by FY2018.
	◎ Regarding the cost of construction execution that is estimated by the planned construction cost in the Building Starts Statistics, improvement of its accuracy shall be aimed for by reviewing the revision survey. Regarding the construction progress pattern, deliberation shall be carried out in the direction of reviewing it earlier by conducting building construction progress rate surveys early. Consideration shall be given to reflecting the results of these reviews on completed amount-based statistics (Integrated Statistics on Construction Works) as quickly as possible and on utilization of revision surveys for swiftly reviewing progress patterns.	MLIT and relevant ministries	Shall be implemented one by one from FY2018.
	○ Regarding the Building Extension and Renovation Survey, it shall be incorporated into the next 2015 Input-Output Tables planned to be prepared in FY2019, and adjustments shall be made among relevant ministries about specific items such as the retroactive period and estimation methods so that it can be reflected on the next benchmark revision of the National Accounts that is planned to be conducted targeting FY2020. Regarding the publication time of the said survey, it shall be brought forward so that it can be used in QE (secondary QE) at the latest.	MLIT, ministries and agencies that produce Input-Output Tables, and CAO	Shall be incorporated into the next Input-Output Tables (FY2019) and shall be reflected on the next benchmark revision.
	○ Regarding the Statistics on Construction Undertaken, deliberation shall be carried out toward improving its accuracy.	MLIT	Shall be implemented from FY2018.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
	<p>◎ Regarding brokerage fees of trading of non-dwellings, the estimation using, for instance, data about the number of real estate trades and price information obtained from registered information, etc., shall be deliberated on and reflected in the 2015 Input-Output Tables shall be aimed for where possible.</p>	MLIT	Conclusion shall be reached by the preparation of the next Input-Output Tables (FY2019).
	<p>○ Regarding the sales margins of houses for installment sale, as for utilization of the “Fact-finding Survey on Real Estate Industry” and enterprise settlement data and rent income of non-dwelling real estates, consideration shall be given to improving its accuracy by utilizing, for instance, the “Corporation Survey on Land and Buildings” (e.g., rentable area ratio, rate of vacancy) that has a much wider coverage.</p>	MLIT	Conclusion shall be reached by the preparation of the next Input-Output Tables (FY2019).
	<p>○ Consideration shall be given to comprehending the medical intermediate input structure. Specifically, regarding the use of the Survey on Economic Conditions in Health Care (Survey on Health Care Facilities) not only in the benchmark year but also in the interim year estimation, consideration shall be given to imputation for unusable years. Based on that, including the situation of collection rate, etc., multi-faceted verification shall be promoted. At the same time, the development of annual statistics, etc., shall be deliberated on as necessary. Also, based on the verification towards use of the Survey on Economic Conditions in Health Care (Survey on Health Care Facilities) and issues in the medical field in the annual estimate shown by CAO, taking into account the consistency with the objective of the said survey and impact of an increase in survey items on the response rate, consideration shall be given to the review and expansion of survey items of the Survey on Economic Conditions in Health Care (Survey on Health Care Facilities), Survey on Input-Output Structure (Input Survey) and business survey. Since hospitals and clinics do not retain data classified into admitted patients and non-admitted patients and conducting input surveys that meet the current sectorial classification is difficult, review of estimation of cost items using receipt data (Statistics of Medical Care Activities in Public Health Insurance), etc. as a provisional measure shall be considered, and consideration shall also be given to establishing practically measurable sectorial classification after shifting to an SUT system. Thought shall also be given to how associated surveys on cost items shall be conducted in the future.</p>	MHLW, CAO and relevant ministries	Shall be implemented from FY2018.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
	<p>○ In order to comprehend the cost structure of social welfare (national/public) in similar detail of that of social welfare (non-profit), verification shall be carried out on the possibility of further use of administrative record information, and new conduct of input surveys for social welfare (national/public) shall be considered while paying attention to the comprehension status on figures, burden, etc. of respondents. Also, the 2015 Input-Output Tables shall be estimated using the Briefing Survey on Economic Conditions in Long-term Care to verify its accuracy. Additionally, regarding the said Survey, towards its use in the interim year estimation, how to handle imputation for unusable years shall be decided. Based on that, multi –faced verification shall be promoted, including the status of collection rate, etc., multi-faceted verification shall be promoted. At the same time, thought shall also be given to the development of annual statistics, etc., as necessary.</p>	MHLW, CAO and relevant ministries	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	<p>○ In order to comprehend the educational intermediate input structure, deliberation shall be carried out on including expansion of survey items of the Survey of Local Educational Expenditure and conduct of special surveys (e.g., Survey on Input-Output Structure (Input Survey)) while limiting the survey subject samples.</p>	MEXT	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
c) Improvement of international comparability, etc.	<p>◎ Consideration shall be given to ensuring the consistency between the Input-Output Tables and the National Accounts by, for instance, accounting in-house software and R&amp;D as fixed capital.</p>	Ministries and agencies that produce Input-Output Tables	Consideration shall be given by the preparation of the next Input-Output Tables (FY2019).
	<p>○ Regarding production of the Input-Output Tables by base price display based on handling of indirect taxes in basic data about indirect taxes and subsidies and of various primary statistics, deliberation on aiming at realization of more detailed classification than the top level of industrial classification in the next tables shall be carried out. At the same time, from the viewpoint of production of the National Accounts, etc., while actively being involved in deliberation at the Input-Output Tables production process, based on the Input-Output Tables production status, necessary deliberation also shall be carried out toward realization in the next benchmark revision.</p>	Ministries and agencies that produce Input-Output Tables and CAO	<p>Conclusion shall be reached by the preparation of the next Input-Output Tables (FY2019).</p> <p>Conclusion shall be reached by the next benchmark revision of the National Accounts.</p>

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
	<p>◎ Regarding the originals of entertainment, literature and art work (e.g., movies) in the National Accounts, consideration shall continue towards accounting them in the gross fixed capital formation in the next benchmark revision.</p>	CAO	Conclusion shall be reached by the next benchmark revision.
	<p>◎ In order to strengthen the involvement in international standard formulation processes pertaining to National Accounts, theoretical and practical studies shall be conducted while actively engaging in international discussions. Additionally, based on these studies, opinions shall be actively expressed at international conferences of OECD, etc. For these purposes, taking in of new sectors based on international trends and R&amp;D projects on the consistency of production, expenditure and distribution, etc., shall be promoted.</p>	CAO	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	<p>◎ Regarding the handling of leases in the National Accounts, deliberation shall be continuously carried out about estimation methods based on the development status of basic statistics to be consistent with international standards.</p>	CAO	Shall be implemented from FY2018, and conclusion shall be reached by the next benchmark revision.
(2) Promotion of systematic development of economic statistics with a focus on Economic Structure Statistics, etc.	<p>○ Regarding how the survey unit shall include the feasibility of introduction of the concept of KAU in statistical surveys targeting establishments and enterprises such as the Economic Census for Business, and the possibility of comprehending business activities on an activity basis, etc., deliberation shall be carried out through integrated efforts of relevant ministries utilizing information obtained by profiling activities, etc.</p>	MIC and relevant ministries	A certain conclusion shall be reached by FY2022.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
	<p>◎ In time with cancellation and review of designation as Fundamental Statistics, for producing interim year Economic Structure Statistics, the Survey on Economic Structure shall be established as a Fundamental Statistical Survey as a result of integration the Census of Commerce, Monthly Survey on Service Industries (expanded survey portion) and the Survey of Selected Service Industries.</p>	MIC and METI	Shall be implemented from FY2019.
	<p>◎ Regarding the Economic Census for Business Frame, it shall be shifted from a statistical survey aimed at grasping one point in time to profiling activities and rolling surveys on regular basis.</p>	MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2019.
	<p>◎ Regarding the Census of Manufactures, it shall be conducted simultaneously and integrally with the Survey on Economic Structure, and a conclusion shall be reached toward including it in the Survey on Economic Structure as soon as possible.</p>	MIC and METI	Shall be simultaneously implemented from FY2019, and conclusion shall be reached by the planning of the 2022 survey.
	<p>◎ From the results of the Census of Manufactures and revised Economic Census for Business Frame, etc., production and provision of interim year Economic Structure Statistics shall be started with a focus on the Survey on Economic Structure.</p>	MIC and METI	Shall be implemented from FY2020.
	<p>◎ Regarding statistical surveys by industry (e.g., the Construction Work Survey) that is registered into the Business Register, they shall be used in production of the interim year Economic Structure Statistics after organizing and considering common survey items, etc.</p>	MIC and relevant ministries	Shall be implemented from FY2019.
	<p>◎ Regarding industry that are difficult to comprehend with statistical surveys in the interim year Economic Structure Statistics, deliberation shall be carried out on the use of administrative record information.</p>	MIC and relevant ministries	Shall be implemented as soon as possible in or after FY2019.
	<p>○ Consideration shall be given to the estimation method of added values, etc. by region (by establishment) utilizing the results of statistical surveys targeting enterprises.</p>	MIC	Conclusion shall be reached by FY2020.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
	<p>◎ Based on the consideration status for the 2021 Economic Census for Business Activity and the interim year SUT, deliberation shall be carried out for a review of survey items, etc. of the Survey on Economic Structure.</p>	MIC, METI and relevant ministries	A certain conclusion shall be reached by the planning of the 2022 survey.
	<p>○ Towards rearrangement and integration of the Monthly Survey on Service Industries (monthly survey portion) and the Current Survey of Selected Service Industries, based on the implementation status of the Survey on Economic Structure, deliberation shall be started as early as possible.</p>	MIC, METI and relevant ministries	Conclusion shall be reached by the end of 2022 at the latest.
	<p>○ Deliberation shall be carried out on role sharing, elimination of overlaps, etc., between the Survey on Economic Structure and the METI Basic Survey of Japanese Business Structure and Activities, Survey for Financial Statements Statistics of Corporations by Industry, Construction Work Survey, Basic Survey on the Information and Communications Industry, Basic Survey on Small and Medium Enterprises, etc.</p>	MIC and relevant ministries	A certain conclusion shall be reached by FY2022.
	<p>○ Provision of enterprise statistics utilizing the Business Register shall be promoted After specifying survey items that shall be uniformly and universally comprehended for defining the registration items from the results of statistical surveys targeting enterprises registered in the Business Register. At the same time, deliberation shall be carried out on the development of statistics for comprehending the activity status of large-scale enterprises in a cross-cutting manner.</p>	MIC and relevant ministries	A certain conclusion shall be reached by FY2022.
	<p>○ Regarding the Indices of Tertiary Industry Activity, efforts shall be made to further improve their usefulness with the use of administrative record information and private data while taking into account the status of development, improvement, etc. of relevant statistics that form the basis of production of the Indices.</p>	METI	Shall be implemented from FY2018.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
(3) Infrastructure development and strengthening cooperation toward improving National Accounts and economic statistics	<p>◎ Further development of population information pertaining to establishments, enterprises, corporations, etc. shall be promoted by shifting the Economic Census for Business Frame to rolling surveys or profiling activities at the National Statistics Center. Additionally, toward a smooth and efficient conduct of the 2021 Economic Census for Business Activity, checking work shall be completed as quickly as possible including work for the establishments, etc. that are newly captured by administrative record information, etc. Specific deliberation shall be carried out on information to be comprehended by profiling activities, comprehension method, etc. and the content shall be made known in advance.</p>	MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2019 (the initial rolling survey shall be conducted by mid-2020).
	<p>○ In conducting statistical surveys pertaining to establishments, enterprises, corporations, etc., efforts shall be continuously made to identify corporate numbers, which the numbers shall be registered in the Business Register, and deliberation shall be carried out on imputation of missing data, expansion of tabulations, etc. using corporate numbers.</p>	Each ministry and MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	<p>○ Deliberation shall be carried out towards registering in the Business Register sole-establishment corporations and non-corporate organized farm management bodies in the Census of Agriculture and Forestry as well as corporate information included in the List of Licensed Construction Business Operators.</p>	MIC and relevant ministries	Conclusion shall be reached by the end of FY2018.
	<p>○ Deliberation shall be carried out on expanding the scope of statistical surveys registered in the Business Register, use of information of changes in the corporate number publication website, open information, etc. of enterprises about settlement, etc., utilization of administrative record information or private data, and content of the Register Statistics<sup>25</sup>. And conclusion-reached initiatives shall be implemented one by one.</p>	MIC and relevant ministries	Shall be implemented one by one from FY2018.
	<p>○ Regarding the discrepancy in the number of enterprises, etc. between population lists of the Financial Statements Statistics of Corporations by Industry and the Business Register, the situation of discrepancy shall be clarified by corporate attribute (e.g., industry, capital class), and deliberation shall be carried out on measures to resolve the discrepancy after comprehending its cause.</p>	MIC and MOF	Conclusion shall be reached by the end of FY2021.

<sup>25</sup> Statistics tabulated for one point in time based on data registered in the Business Register

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
	○ Regarding information of corporations, establishments, etc. registered in the Business Register including corporations without full-time officers or workers, deliberation shall be carried out on the method of registration to the Business Register and provision of detailed population information.	MIC	Conclusion shall be reached by the end of FY2018.
	○ In order to contribute to sampling for monthly and annual surveys, deliberation shall be carried out on provision of population information in which activity conditions of establishments are frequently updated.	MIC	Conclusion shall be reached by the end of FY2018.
	○ In cooperation with ministries that conduct statistical surveys pertaining to establishments, enterprises, corporations, etc., issues, etc. towards further utilization of annual frame shall be summarized, and then deliberation shall be carried out on enhancement, etc. of necessary information for further raising its usefulness as an integrated common list.	MIC	Conclusion shall be reached by the end of FY2021.
	○ Regarding the revised “Guidelines Concerning Handling of Consumption Tax Related to the Compilation of Sales Data, etc., in Statistical Survey”, consideration toward one-by-one introduction and application shall be started from surveys that come to the time of tabulation after changing the consumption tax rate and implementing reduced tax rates in October 2019, and relevant initiatives shall be continuously promoted and expanded.	Relevant ministries	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	○ Regarding the introduction of including amounts before tax in primary statistical surveys, deliberation shall be carried out on the feasibility of such introduction and the common handling policy, in view of the 2026 Economic Census for Business Activity.	MIC and relevant ministries	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	○ Regarding items not grasped by establishment-related surveys, relevant ministries as a whole shall consider the method to estimate using enterprise-related surveys, etc., and efforts shall be made to enhance tabulation by region or reduction of the burden on respondents by formulating certain handling policies.	MIC and relevant ministries	Shall be implemented by FY2022.
	○ Regarding the “Guidelines Concerning Workers Classifications, etc., in Statistical Surveys”, application shall be extended to statistical surveys targeting establishments and enterprises with the known number of employees, verification and deliberation pertaining to the further possibility of conducting surveys on the period of employment contract (non-fixed and fixed) shall be carried out via the pilot survey of the 2021 Economic Census for Business Activity, hearing survey to enterprises, etc. And then, revision shall be made in line with the image of revision of the guidelines.	MIC and relevant ministries	Shall be implemented by the planning of the 2021 Economic Census for Business Activity.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
2 Development of statistics that accurately grasp changes in social and economic situations (1) Development of statistics that more accurately grasp actual situation of depopulating society	◎ Regarding the survey method of the Population Census, based on the verification results of implementation status in the 2015 survey, deliberation shall be carried out on responses to absent households, etc. with a focus on young people and measures to further promote the use of online surveys, while paying attention to smooth conduct of surveys, and it shall be reflected on the planning of the 2020 survey. Additionally, regarding measures to reduce the burden of operations on local public entities whose workload has been increased associated with diversification of questionnaire collection methods, deliberation shall be carried out on based the results of verification in the pilot survey.	MIC	Conclusion shall be reached by the planning of the 2020 survey.
	◎ Regarding publication of the Population Census, further enhancement shall be made on the occasion of the 2020 Census which marks the 100th anniversary , and efforts shall be made to promote understanding about improving the online response rate, etc.	MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2019.
	◎ As additional measures towards reducing non-sampling errors in the Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions, consideration toward reducing the discrepancy between the results of this survey and the results of the Population Census and consideration on measures to improve the collection rate shall be promoted, in addition to comparisons and verification of attributes, etc., pertaining to households that are subject to this survey and the Population Census.	MHLW	Conclusion shall be reached by the planning of the 2019 survey.
	◎ Regarding how the preparatory surveys, etc. pertaining to setting survey unit areas in the Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions shall be, deliberation shall be carried out from the viewpoints of improving in the efficiency of overall survey work and of survey methods.	MHLW	Conclusion shall be reached by the planning of the 2019 survey.
	◎ Regarding the online survey of the Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions, consideration shall be continuously given to the possibility of its introduction taking into account the results of initiatives towards reducing non-sampling errors, etc.	MHLW	Shall be implemented after completing the planning of the 2019 survey.
	◎ Regarding the consideration status of estimation method and the accuracy of results, etc. of the Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions, further enhancement of information provision shall be realized.	MHLW	Shall be implemented from FY2018.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
	<p>◎ For the Vital Statistics, regarding foreigner tabulation by municipality in municipalities where foreigners over a certain scale reside, deliberation shall be carried out on the possibility of such tabulation.</p>	MHLW	Conclusion shall be reached as quickly as possible.
	<p>◎ Regarding provision of questionnaire information in the Vital Statistics, provision in the text format shall be started.</p>	MHLW	Shall be implemented from the 2018 survey.
	<p>◎ Regarding the Vital Statistics, efforts shall be continued on addition and modification of functions of the online reporting system towards further improved efficiency of production work.</p>	MHLW	Shall be implemented within FY2019.
<p>(2) Development of statistics that more accurately grasp actual situation of education, employment, etc.</p>	<p>◎ Regarding the comprehension of part-time staff at integrated centers for early childhood education and care in the Basic School Survey, with the cooperation of MHLW, statistics utilizing the results of the Survey of Social Welfare Institutions shall be produced and provided, and associated important notices (e.g., time of comprehension) shall be provided at the same time.</p>	MEXT	Shall be implemented from the FY2018 survey.
	<p>◎ Tuberculosis shall be removed from the category of reasons for administrative leave in the number of teachers who took administrative leave in the Basic School Survey.</p>	MEXT	Shall be implemented from the FY2018 survey.
	<p>◎ Review of the category of reasons for administrative leave in the number of teachers who took administrative leave in the Basic School Survey shall be conducted to add administrative leave for long-term care.</p>	MEXT	Shall be implemented from the FY2019 survey.
	<p>◎ Regarding the employment status of graduates of junior high schools in the Basic School Survey, it shall be comprehended by the period of employment contract (non-fixed or fixed), while paying attention to consistency with the “Guidelines Concerning Workers Classifications, etc., in Statistical Surveys”.</p>	MEXT	Shall be implemented from the FY2018 survey.
	<p>◎ Regarding the employment status of school types other than junior high schools in the Basic School Survey, survey items shall be reviewed one by one to ensure consistency with the “Guidelines Concerning Workers Classifications, etc., in Statistical Surveys” and integrity among school types.</p>	MEXT	Shall be implemented one by one from the FY2019 survey and shall be implemented by the FY2020 survey at the latest.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
	<p>◎ Regarding survey items pertaining to integrated centers for early childhood education and care in the Basic School Survey, deliberation shall be carried out on eliminating overlaps with the Survey of Social Welfare Institutions conducted by MHLW.</p>	MEXT	Conclusion shall be reached by the planning of the FY2020 survey at the latest.
	<p>◎ As for the survey and statistics system of the Basic School Survey, toward the next system upgrade, deliberation shall be carried out on changing to a system which allows flexible modification when addition of survey items, etc. takes place.</p>	MEXT	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	<p>○ Regarding the Longitudinal Survey of Babies in the 21st Century (2001 Cohort), deliberation shall be carried out on survey items based on political needs such as school education and scholarships, and efforts shall be made to maintain the scale of respondents, verify their representativeness, improve the accuracy of responses, etc.</p>	MEXT and MHLW	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	<p>◎ Regarding the School Health Examination Survey, while paying reduction to reduction of the burden on respondents, political needs and user needs, improvement shall be made on survey methods, sample design and survey items for producing statistics. And in order to realize active improvement of survey plans including collection, storage, etc. of basic data, a study group shall be launched consisting of persons with expert knowledge in the educational and medical sectors, people related to the survey, etc. shall be launched, and consideration reflecting opinions of work sites shall be conducted, and improvement of this survey shall be realized.</p>	MEXT	Shall be implemented as quickly as possible.
	<p>◎ Regarding comprehension of the income and expenditure structure by relevant entity in the Social Education Survey, deliberation shall be carried out on the possibility of implementation based on the progress status of preparation of financial statements, etc. at local public entities.</p>	MEXT	Conclusion shall be reached by the planning of the FY2021 survey.
	<p>◎ Regarding addition of survey items for grasping the situation of users of social education facilities in the Social Education Survey, efforts shall be made to obtain understanding of social education personnel about the burden of surveys, and consideration shall be promoted.</p>	MEXT	Conclusion shall be reached by the planning of the FY2021 survey.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
	○ Regarding the Statistics on Student Guidance, initiatives toward continuous improvement shall be implemented toward further improved objectivity and comparability.	MEXT	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
(3) Development of statistics that accurately grasp changes in the ways of working, etc.	◎ Regarding information about differences generated after changes in choices pertaining to “status in employment” in the Labour Force Survey, enhancements on provision through websites, etc. shall be made.	MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	◎ Regarding information about each index on unused labor in the Labour Force Survey, it shall be provided on websites, etc. along with information compared and analyzed with the situation of other countries, paying attention to the perspective of international comparison.	MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	◎ Regarding the Labour Force Survey and the Monthly Labour Survey, after summarizing the differences in the survey methods and survey items in both surveys, workers classification and term correspondence in tabulation tables shall be clarified on the websites of both surveys, etc., and toward improving the convenience of users, deliberation shall be carried out on specific measures concerning the provision of highly useful information that contributes to the use of both surveys, etc., and efforts shall be made to enhance information provision.	MIC and MHLW	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	◎ Regarding the Employment Status Survey, based on the verification results of the 2017 survey, deliberation shall be carried out on how survey items shall be for a more accurately comprehension the impact on employment of childcare and long-term care.	MIC	Conclusion shall be reached by the planning of the 2022 survey.
	◎ Regarding the Employment Status Survey, after verifying the effects, etc. of expanding online surveys in the 2017 survey, deliberation shall be carried out on further promotion of online surveys.	MIC	Conclusion shall be reached by the planning of the 2022 survey.
	◎ Regarding the Basic Survey of Wage Structure, technical deliberation on comparison with the Monthly Labour Survey, estimation based on the results of the consideration, analysis of non-sampling errors due to unevenness in non-responding establishments, etc. shall be conducted. And information that includes the characteristics of this survey shall be provided to the users of statistics.	MHLW	Shall be implemented from FY2018

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
	<p>◎ Regarding provision of anonymized data in the Basic Survey on Wage Structure, taking into account the status of consideration at the whole government, deliberation shall be preferentially carried out on provision of personal questionnaires to which the method of household survey with an established data anonymization method can be applied.</p>	MHLW	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	<p>◎ Regarding the Basic Survey on Wage Structure, deliberation shall be carried out on review of survey method toward improved efficiency and further early dissemination, measures to improve the collection rate, review of survey target occupations, and subdivision of educational background categories “University or graduate school”, “Technical college or junior college”, while verifying the impact of reviews through conducting the pilot survey, etc.. Additionally, deliberation shall be carried out on changing the estimation method taking into account the collection rate and surveying for all workers inside sample establishments in line with introduction of online surveys.</p>	MHLW	Conclusion shall be reached by the planning of the 2020 survey.
	<p>◎ Regarding the Survey on Seamen's Labour (Survey No.1), based on the improvement effects of sample design that will be adopted from the FY2018 survey, deliberation shall be carried out on drastic revisions including adoption of a sample design where establishment is the unit.</p>	MLIT	Conclusion shall be reached by FY2020.
	<p>◎ Regarding the Survey on Seamen's Labour, based on the comparability with on-land workers, structural change in the labor market, and needs for statistical use, drastic consideration about how the Fundamental Statistics and the Fundamental Statistical Survey should be shall be started as early as possible, including the use of administrative record information while paying attention to reduction of the burden on respondents, integration with other statistics and conversion to General Statistical Surveys. Additionally, while obtaining a conclusion about the above, improvement of the current survey shall be conducted including (1) feasibility of addition of survey subjects and survey items, (2) expansion of tabulation items, (3) how existing survey items shall be, and (4) review of the survey system.</p>	MLIT	<p>For drastic consideration on how the Fundamental Statistics and the Fundamental Statistical Survey shall be, conclusion shall be reached by FY2020. Improvement of current surveys shall be conducted one by one until the conclusion is reached.</p>

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
(4) Development of statistics for promoting agriculture-, forestry- and fisheries-related measures	◎ Regarding the Census of Agriculture and Forestry, deliberation shall be carried out on comprehension of labor force related to agricultural production business and of implementation status of blue returns (tax returns using the method of double-entry bookkeeping), etc., in addition to integrated comprehension of labor force of organized farm management entities with that of family farm management entities.	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF)	Conclusion shall be reached by the planning of the 2020 Census of Agriculture and Forestry.
	◎ Regarding the Statistical Survey on Farm Management and Economy, in order to realize enhancement of data on the management income and expenditure, etc. of business operators, deliberation shall be carried out on reducing the number of samples from small-scale family farm management entities and focusing on large-scale family farm management entities and organized farm management entities, and on comprehending accounting of family farm management entities in a way similar to corporate accounting (e.g., “operating profit”), etc.	MAFF	Conclusion shall be reached by the planning of the 2019 survey.
	○ Regarding the Fishery Management Survey, in order to realize enhancement of data on the management income and expenditure, etc., of business operators, deliberation shall be carried out on reducing the number of samples from small-scale individual fishery management entities and focusing on large-scale individual fishery management entities and corporate fishery management entities, and on comprehending accounting of individual fishery management entities in a way similar to corporate accounting (e.g., “operating profit”), etc.	MAFF	Conclusion shall be reached by the planning of the 2019 survey.
	○ Regarding the Survey on Survey on Food Prices at Various Stages of Distribution, in order to clarify the actual situation of various price formations of fruit, vegetables and seafood, deliberation shall be carried out on comprehension of distribution that does not go through wholesale markets (of production areas).	MAFF	Conclusion shall be reached by the planning of the next survey (planned to be FY2018).
	○ Regarding the Survey on the Distribution Structure of Lumber, deliberation shall be carried out on newly comprehending the amount in addition to the quantity, etc. about the data of the situation, etc. of each supplier and buyer by the timber distribution stage.	MAFF	Conclusion shall be reached by the planning of the next survey (planned to be FY2018).

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
	<p>◎ Regarding the 2015 Census of Agriculture and Forestry, as for the survey results on corporate agriculture and forestry management entities, using the results of the 2016 Economic Census for Business Activity, deliberation shall be carried out toward producing statistics for comprehending and analyzing the situation of entry from other industries into the agricultural industry, situation of cooperation between the agricultural/forestry industry and other industries, etc.</p>	MAFF	Conclusion shall be reached by FY2019.
	<p>◎ Regarding the survey subject category of the Statistical Survey on Farm Management and Economy, in order to more accurately and appropriately comprehend the actual agricultural structure in various forms of management entities, multi-faceted deliberation shall be carried out toward revising it using the results of hearing surveys with persons with expert knowledge, results of other surveys, etc.</p>	MAFF	Conclusion shall be reached by the planning of the 2022 survey.
	<p>◎ Regarding the survey items “distance between fields” and “average distance from housing complexes” of the Statistical Survey on Farm Management and Economy, after analyzing and scrutinizing the relationship between the survey result and production cost from “2017 produces” that will be summarized in FY2018, deliberation shall be carried out on the necessity of revising these survey items.</p>	MAFF	Conclusion shall be reached by the planning of the 2022 survey.
	<p>◎ Regarding the survey items of the major producing prefectures in the Statistical Survey on Crops, after conducting verification and consideration on, for instance, comparison of percentage changes in the crop acreage and yield between major producing prefectures and non-major producing prefectures, if the verification result suggests a significant difference in the trend between the two, efforts shall be made to improve the accuracy of estimated values by, for instance, adopting a different estimation method.</p>	MAFF	Shall be implemented one by one from those for which a nationwide survey has been conducted.
	<p>◎ Regarding the Statistical Survey on Lumber, toward provision of thorough information from consumption/production to distribution/processing of lumbers including wood chips for fuel, as for the production and provision of comprehensive statistical tables including results obtained from other lumber-related surveys such as the Survey on Lumber Distribution Structure, deliberation shall be started based on the use of forest and forestry measures and user needs.</p>	MAFF	Shall be implemented from FY2018.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
(5) Development of statistics for developing environment- and energy-related measures	○ Regarding the Survey on Waste Recycling, toward a further improvement of its accuracy, deliberation shall be continued about refinement of the comprehension method for waste, etc.	MOE	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	○ Regarding the Structural Survey of Energy Consumption, verification shall be made on the persistence of effects of various revisions for stabilizing time-series or refining data, etc., and systematic development of statistics on energy consumption in the industry and operations sectors shall be promoted including reaching a conclusion about its conversion to Fundamental Statistics.	Agency for Natural Resources and Energy	Conclusion shall be reached by FY2022.
(6) Improvement of statistics needed for transport-related measures	◎ Regarding the Survey on Motor Vehicle Transport, from the viewpoint of improving its accuracy, analysis and consideration shall be promoted including the use of the preliminary survey conducted in FY2017, other transport statistics and administrative record information, and surveys using new survey methods shall commence. Additionally, deliberation shall be carried out on its early dissemination, enhancement of disseminated items based on actual needs, method to stabilize the values of transport volume by article, etc., and a conclusion shall be reached as early as possible.	MLIT	Shall be implemented from FY2020.
	◎ Regarding the Harbour Survey, use of online surveys, administrative record information, etc. shall be further promoted, and efforts shall be made to disseminate survey results sooner, including dissemination of preliminary figures limited to major harbors, etc. Additionally, based on the situation of addition of items in the NACCS <sup>26</sup> data, deliberation shall be promoted regarding its further use and consideration should be given on enhancement of tabulation items that the actual needs.	MLIT	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
(7) Improvement and systematic development of real estate-related statistics	◎ Regarding the Corporation Survey on Land and Buildings conducted every five years and the Land Dynamism Survey conducted in the interim years, while paying close attention to the situation of deliberation including how the dissemination of real estate registration information shall be, consideration shall be promoted towards the direction of efficiently conducting surveys for more an accurate comprehension of the land ownership and use structure by corporations, including the possibility of using real estate registration information and comprehension of information on flow and stock by region.	MLIT	Conclusion shall be reached by the planning of the 2023 Corporation Survey on Land and Buildings.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
	○ In order to grasp the overall picture of land ownership and use status in Japan, towards enhancing the production method of the Basic Land Surveys, issues to be resolved shall be identified and reviewed in cooperation with relevant ministries.	MLIT	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
(8) Improvement and enhancement of statistics necessary for promoting tourism measures	○ Regarding the Regional Tourism Statistics produced using existing tourism statistics, from the viewpoint of its systematical development after verifying the estimation results of the number of tourists and tourism expenditures by prefecture that will be disseminated from the 2018 January-March period portion, initiatives for improving the estimation method shall be implemented. Also, toward improving the accuracy of the Regional Tourism Statistics, related statistics shall be improved including the possibility of utilization of private data, deliberation shall be carried out on improving statistics that reflect changes in the formats of tourism owing to, for instance, expanded use of cruise ships.	Japan Tourism Agency (JTA)	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	○ Regarding the Statistical Survey on Overnight Travel and National Tourism Survey, based on the progress of systematic development of tourism statistics above, a conclusion pertaining to conversion to Fundamental Statistics shall be reached.	JTA	Conclusion shall be reached by FY2022.
	○ Regarding the results of representation by prefecture in the International Visitor Survey, after conducting verification of their accuracy, a conclusion about necessary improvements shall be reached.	JTA	Conclusion shall be reached by FY2022.
3 Promotion of statistical development, international cooperation, etc. that reflect the globalization	○ Regarding the SDDS Plus, toward dissemination of unaddressed quarterly balance sheets by sector, general government balances and general government debts, deliberation shall be continued with the cooperation of relevant ministries and agencies, and their dissemination for all items which can be addressed shall be realized.	MOF and CAO	Shall be implemented by April 2021.
	○ Initiatives for increasing the efforts on global indicators of SDGs shall be implemented in cooperation with the Statistics Commission and ministries.	Cabinet Secretariat and MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2018.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
	<p>◎ Regarding the Financial Statistics of Social Security in Japan, as for production of statistics conforming to EU (ESSPROS) standards (which allow international comparison of resources relating to social protection) in addition to the OECD standards, deliberation shall be carried out with the cooperation of the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) and relevant ministries, and provision shall be started.</p>	MHLW	Shall be implemented by FY2022.
	<p>◎ Regarding the Financial Statistics of Social Security in Japan, toward comprehensive understanding of social security expenditure of local public entities conforming to international standards, deliberation shall be carried out on the use of results of surveys on social security-related cost, estimation based on unit cost, etc., and improvement shall be made.</p>	MHLW	Shall be implemented by FY2022.
	<p>○ Regarding the production of new statistics where import and export activities are linked with the characteristics (e.g., foreign capital ratio) of the relevant enterprise, the feasibility of production shall be verified and analyzed, including consideration from the viewpoints of not only the possibility of connecting registered information based on the registration status of corporate numbers in the Business Register and the Trade Statistics Database, but also whether information of individual enterprises can be identified or not, etc. Additionally, regarding the Trade Statistics, based on user needs, efforts shall be continued on improving their convenience including enhancement of information provision.</p>	MOF and MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	<p>○ Regarding the Survey of Overseas Business Activities, based on the consideration status of measures for developing the environment for providing administrative record information at the government, toward appropriate production of its population lists, deliberation shall be carried out on the measures to use administrative record information such as the submitted information (e.g., corporate name, address) requested by the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act (Act No. 228 of 1949), and a conclusion shall be reached as soon as possible.</p>	METI	Shall be implemented from FY2018.

	<p>○ While using the expertise of the Statistics Commission, international contribution shall be promoted by further enhancing relevant initiatives such as (1) active participation in and information dissemination at international conferences, expert meetings, etc., (2) regular dispatching of statistics experts to international organizations, etc., (3) acceptance of government officials engaged in statistics from foreign countries, especially from developing countries, etc., and (4) cooperation in operation of the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP).</p>	Each ministry	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
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Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
	○ From the perspective of further improving international comparability of statistics, with the Statistics Commission playing the central role, ministries shall cooperate in enhancing the dissemination of information to international organizations and information sharing about the state of statistics-related discussions and coordination at international organizations.	MIC and each ministry	Shall be implemented from FY2018.

(Note) In the “Concrete measures, policies, etc.” column, ⊙ indicates matters concerning Fundamental Statistics, and ○ indicates matters concerning other official statistics.

### III. Matters Necessary for the Development of Official Statistics

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
<p>1 Streamlining statistical production and reducing the burden on respondents (1) Use of administrative record information, etc. and big data, etc. held by private enterprises, etc.</p>	<p>○ Conferences through industry-government-academia cooperation for solving issues in utilization and for accumulating and disseminating good practices, etc. shall be held by selecting data with precedents of use of private data or data with high priority (e.g., POS data, people flow data, SNS data) as well as by intensive considerations through ministerial cooperation. In addition, mutual utilization of data, etc. at ministries, local public entities, private enterprises, etc. for the purpose of statistical analysis or production of statistics shall be propelled while paying attention to the state of data protection, obtainment, etc.</p>	MIC and each ministry	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	<p>○ In order to promote utilization of big data for the purpose of statistical analysis or production of statistics, the actual situation of utilization of big data, etc. in statistics at each ministry shall be comprehended, efforts shall be made to grasp the state of effective use of the national statistical data, big data, etc. at local public entities, private enterprises, etc. to the extent possible, and such information shall be periodically provided to ministries to encourage horizontal application of use at ministries and shall be reported at the conferences listed above.</p>	MIC and each ministry	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
<p>a) Use of administrative record information, etc.</p>	<p>○ In cooperation with ministries, after further improving the survey on actual situation on the use of administrative record information for production of statistics, etc., the survey shall be periodically conducted, the results shall be shown on webpages, and the information sharing among ministries shall be enhanced. At ministries that produce administrative statistics, relevant statistics shall be published on the e-Stat, etc. in principle, and efforts shall be made to enhance provided information based on user needs.</p>	MIC and each ministry	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	<p>○ Efforts shall be made to more accurately comprehend business trends and analyze long-term economic trends by utilizing administrative record information. In particular, regarding tax information related to income, full-scale studies shall be conducted in the view of utilizing it as supplementary information for comprehending the wage trends, etc.</p>	CAO and MOF	Shall be implemented from FY2018.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Studies and consideration through use of administrative record information, etc. in production of statistics shall be promoted while enhancing information sharing and cooperation among ministries with the Statistics Commission playing the central roles. In promoting use of administrative record information, etc. in production of statistics, cases of diverting administrative record information with the respondent's consent, cases that request submission of existing in-company data, etc. shall be comprehended, and shall be distributed to other ministries taking into account the actual situation and opinions of respondents.</li> </ul>	MIC and each ministry	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
b) Use of big data held by private enterprises, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ To comprehend new business trends using big data, deliberation shall be carried out toward development of methods to use POS data for detailed analysis. Also, toward comprehension of the trend of transfers among regions using logistics data, studies shall be promoted in cooperation with research institutions.</li> </ul>	CAO	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In developing economic indicators using big data, consideration shall be given so that they contribute to improving the comprehension of business trends, and efforts shall be made to comprehend economic activities not comprehended by existing statistics using POS data, people flow data, SNS data, etc. Also, to promote efficient use of big data at ministries, with the Statistics Commission playing the core role, information shall be periodically shared about the implementation status at relevant ministries, how data provision from enterprises, etc. shall be, ensuring the quality of data, development of human resources with special expertise, etc.</li> </ul>	MIC and relevant ministries	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
(2) Promotion of online surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Based on the “Action Policy Concerning Promotion of Online Surveys”, in planning statistical surveys, deliberation shall be carried out on the introduction of online surveys, and the survey itself and response rate shall be improved after the introduction by, for instance, the use of mobile devices.</li> </ul>	Each ministry	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improvement, expansion, etc. of the functions of the “Portal Site of Official Statistics Online Survey” shall be promoted based on the prevalence of ICT.</li> </ul>	MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2018.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
(3) Reduction of the burden on respondents and comprehension of statistical needs respondents	<p>○ In cooperation with initiatives of collecting suggestions on statistical needs conducted by the EBPM Promotion Committee, suggestions of respondents burden about production of statistics shall be regularly collected. Also, regarding the suggestions comprehended by the collection and the suggestions of respondents and statistical needs collected by ministries in conducting statistical surveys, relevant measures shall be formulated and published in cooperation with ministries and follow up of the measure implementation status shall be periodically conducted every year with the Statistics Commission playing the central role. Regarding the content pertaining to overlaps, etc. with various surveys or questionnaires, etc. by local public entities, incorporated administrative agencies, private enterprises, etc., MIC shall conduct information provision, communication, etc. to relevant entities as necessary, while taking the opinions of the Statistics Commission into account.</p>	MIC and each ministry	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	<p>○ In designing statistical surveys under the jurisdiction, efforts shall be made to reduce the burden on respondents and make appropriate responses to statistical needs by separately comprehending opinions of respondents and statistical needs inside and outside ministries and by taking into account the respondents' opinions and statistical needs collected and comprehended in the past, and efforts shall be made to reduce the burden on respondents and simplify survey work by checking the presence and location of necessary data with the Vice Commissioner for Policy Planning of each ministry, etc.</p>	Each ministry	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
2 Securing the quality of statistics (1) Development of statistical standards and improvement of comparability between statistics a) Development of statistical standards	<p>○ Associated with the next revision of the Japan Standard Industrial Classification, based on the results of confirmation of enterprises, etc. that are added by collation of corporate numbers and the Business Register, activity status of enterprises, the feasibility of conducting surveys, etc., arrangement for handling of corporations, etc. without full-time officers, workers, etc. in the Japan Standard Industrial Classification shall be promoted.</p>	MIC	Shall be implemented toward the next revision (FY2023) of the Japan Standard Industrial Classification.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
b) Improvement of comparability between statistics	○ In order to improve the comparability between statistics and the re-tabulation function, in cooperation with each ministry, deliberation shall be carried out and a conclusion shall be reached about how standard categories for representation by regional blocks shall be, and deliberation shall be carried out and a conclusion shall be reached about how standard categories for representation such as age, establishment scale, etc. shall be after further scrutinizing the current situation. Additionally, each ministry shall make efforts on responses based on the results, while paying attention to the characteristics and accuracy of each survey.	MIC and each ministry	A conclusion shall be reached by the end of FY2018 for regional blocks, and one by one from FY2019 onward for the rest, and shall be implemented one by one based on the results.
(2) Securing and improving the quality of statistical surveys entrusted to private enterprises	○ Based on the “Guidelines Concerning Private Entrustment of Statistical Surveys”, efforts shall be made to reexamine entrusted business specifications and to implement process control thoroughly, and further assurance of quality and improvement of private entrusted operations shall be steadily promoted through information sharing including ex-post verification.	Each ministry	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	○ Regarding private entrustment of statistical surveys, with the cooperation of relevant ministries, deliberation shall be carried out on promotion of multi-year contracts, etc., and information of good practices, etc. on private entrustment shall be summarized and shared.	MIC and relevant ministries	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
(3) Support for research on issues common to statistics, and for ministries, etc.	○ Regarding information sharing using the “Ministerial Statistics Information Forum” (the government-wide information board), with the Statistics Commission playing the central role, the initiative shall be improved and expanded (e.g., making survey study implementation plans at ministries subject to sharing).	MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	○ Based on the needs from ministries and local public entities, studies toward solving technical issues related to statistics shall be promoted, and support shall be provided to ministries and local public entities by utilizing the study results in statistical work.	MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	○ R&D on advance statistical technologies on the use of big data (e.g., comprehension of characteristics of big data, correction of bias) shall be continued. Also, regarding appropriate data processing (e.g., anonymizing), ensuring the trust in data storage and use, ensuring the quality of data, etc., efforts shall be made to enhance technical support for ministries, and training about cases of big data analysis and its utilization shall be conducted.	MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2018.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ While continuing research on advancement of the information collection method based on the technology trend of the times, studies such as integrated estimation of results of random sampling surveys carried out by enumerators and results of surveys carried out by other means (e.g., monitoring survey) shall be promoted, and the results shall be reflected on prioritization of work of enumerators.</li> </ul>	MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
(4) Promotion of statistics inventory, quality control, etc. a) Statistics inventory, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ By formulating statistics-related public and private cost reduction plans, the statistics-related public and private cost (a total of time cost required for operations, etc.; excludes additional costs) shall be reduced by 20% in three years, and the implementation progress shall be followed up on each year and the results shall be published.</li> </ul>	Each ministry and MIC	Shall be implemented by the end of FY2020.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In cooperation with each ministry, regarding individual statistics, the Statistical Accuracy Check shall be systematically conducted by utilizing the Statistical Research and Training Institute as needed, and follow up shall be conducted including the status of response to the results of Statistical Accuracy Check in FY2017.</li> </ul>	MIC and each ministry	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
b) Promotion of quality control, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Based on the “Guidelines Concerning Quality Assurance of Official Statistics”, statistics quality assurance activities shall be continued to improve statistics and statistical surveys under the jurisdiction of each ministry, and efforts shall be made to make the production process more transparent to further propel understanding and use of Official Statistics.</li> </ul>	Each ministry	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
3 Promotion of use of statistics and improvement of the survey environment (1) Promotion of provision and use of questionnaire information, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In controlling questionnaire information, etc., after considering the data format of questionnaire information, etc. and how storage and control of information (meta data) needed for utilizing questionnaire information, etc. shall be, guidelines on entrusting control, etc. of questionnaire information, etc. shall be formulated.</li> </ul>	MIC	Shall be implemented by the end of FY2018.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ As a government-wide infrastructure, development of central data control facilities for centralized control of questionnaire information, anonymized data, meta data, etc. and a portal site about provision and use of questionnaire information, etc., shall be promoted in cooperation with the National Statistics Center.</li> </ul>	MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2018.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
	○ Regarding provision of questionnaire information, in cooperation with the National Statistics Center, initiatives for step-wise expansion of on-site facilities and available statistical surveys toward nationwide development of on-site use shall be implemented, in the view of shifting to use forms with a focus on on-site use. At the same time, deliberation shall be carried out on how the use form of questionnaire information, etc. shall be based on the implementation progress of the above. Additionally, regarding available administrative record information, development shall be progressed on the system infrastructure that is necessary for statistical use.	MIC and each ministry	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	○ Taking into account the operational progress of on-site use at MIC, regarding data provision, etc. of questionnaire information, etc. of statistical surveys under the jurisdiction of each ministry, initiatives toward promotion of on-site use shall be implemented, including promoting entrustment of operations for providing and controlling questionnaire information, etc. to the National Statistics Center.	Each ministry and MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	○ Taking into account the revision status of laws and ordinances on statistics, in order to promote easing of use requirements related to provision of tailor-made tabulations and anonymized data, development of necessary environment shall be conducted including revision of guidelines.	MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	○ Regarding tailor-made tabulations, in order to improve the convenience of users, etc., further initiatives on provision of information about use (e.g., requirements of use, producible tables, cost, etc.) shall be implemented, including listing it on websites and giving detailed examples.	Each ministry	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	○ Regarding tailor-made tabulations, deliberation shall be carried out on introduction of on-demand tabulations that are more convenient, and a conclusion shall be reached.	MIC	Shall be implemented by the end of FY2019.
	○ Regarding anonymized data, toward providing in a form that realizes use by a broader range of people, with the support of the Statistical Research and Training Institute, consideration shall be given to early provision based on considerations from regulatory and technical aspects.	MIC	Shall be implemented by the end of FY2019.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
	○ Regarding anonymized data and tailor-made tabulations, addition of types and years of statistical surveys provided, etc. shall be conducted taking user needs into account, etc.	Each ministry	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	○ Regarding results results using questionnaire information, while receiving reports from ministries and researchers, an environment which enables comprehensive viewing shall be developed in cooperation with the e-Stat, and initiatives for improving the convenience of viewers shall be implemented, including functions to list and search for study results.	MIC	Shall be implemented by the end of FY2018.
(2) Promotion of sharing and provision of statistical data based on using the Inter-Ministry Information System for Official Statistics, etc.	○ Including the results of General Statistical Surveys, administrative statistics and processed statistics, statistical data under the jurisdiction of each ministry shall be registered to the e-Stat. Additionally, enhancement of provision of data in a machine-readable format, centralized publication of statistical tables, and data registration to statistical information databases which enable data use utilizing an API function shall be systematically implemented. MIC shall continue to spread information relating to statistical data registration to ministries and provide support for statistical data registration work at ministries and shall improve the efficiency of statistical data registration work by proceeding with standardization of the questionnaire information saving format, etc., in cooperation with other ministries.	Each ministry and MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	○ Regarding the e-Stat, user needs shall be comprehended and functional improvement based on them shall be continuously promoted, such as improvement and enhancement of functions for advanced use and addition of an item search function about administrative record information used in production of statistics.	MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	○ The usability of the e-Stat shall be improved by collecting information about the convenience and usability of statistics websites of overseas governments and international organizations and by introducing useful functions.	MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	○ In cooperation with MIC, information necessary for when using statistics (e.g., outline of survey, regional division, list of classification items/tabulation items) shall be registered to the e-Stat.	Each ministry	Shall be implemented from FY2018.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
(3) Improvement of statistical literacy	<p>○ Based on the report of the Central Council for Education calling for improvement of the content of statistics education, etc. and the associated revision of the Course of Study, current initiatives (e.g., development of free learning websites and materials, provision of contents for teachers) shall be further enhanced, and seminars for teachers and lecture sessions for pupils and students shall be actively held for the purpose of improving the teaching capability of teachers and for raising the interest of pupils and students about statistics. Also, in cooperation with initiatives of classes for elementary and junior high school students by local public entities, information provision and horizontal application of good practices, etc. shall be conducted.</p>	MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	<p>○ In cooperation with relevant ministries, provision of lecture sessions and courses for university students and adults shall be enhanced through collaboration and cooperation with higher education institutions deeply related with data science, and the quality and quantity of collaborated/cooperated higher education institutions shall be improved. Also, in cooperation with relevant ministries, for the purpose of developing human resources with data analysis skills requested by the industry, lecturers shall be dispatched to professional postgraduate courses, etc.</p>	MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	<p>○ From the viewpoint of improving the activity environment of enumerators, educational materials describing the necessity and legal status of statistical surveys, measures to protect questionnaire information, role of enumerators, etc. shall be prepared and provided for each stage of elementary, junior high and senior high school. Also, through case studies on universities working on statistics education and appointment of student enumerators, cooperation between universities expecting to take similar initiatives in the future and prefectures shall be promoted.</p>	MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
(4) Promotion of understanding and securing sense of fairness in respondents	<p>○ Under the cooperation of METI, with the Economic Census for Business Activity in mind, a conclusion shall be reached about statistical surveys in which onsite inspection shall be actively conducted based on Article 15 of the Statistics Act, subjects of onsite inspection, and further specification of necessary inspection procedures, etc., referencing to cases of on-site inspection conducted based on laws other than the Statistics Act. Based on that, deliberation shall be carried out on practical measures to actively conduct onsite inspection, etc. in the 2021 Economic Census for Business Activity, and a conclusion shall be reached.</p>	MIC and METI	Conclusion shall be reached by the planning of the 2021 Economic Census for Business Activity. For practical measures, conclusion shall be reached by the conduct of the said Economic Census.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
	<p>○ In order to encourage active conduct of onsite inspection, etc. in other Fundamental Statistical Surveys, based on the implementation status of onsite inspection, etc. of the 2021 Economic Census for Business Activity, initiatives shall be implemented including comprehension of issues and analysis of cases related to on-site inspection, etc., and sharing them among relevant ministries.</p>	MIC	Shall be implemented by the end of FY2022.
	<p>○ In order to smoothly implement statistical surveys at residential complexes, with the cooperation of relevant ministries and in cooperation with local public entities, cooperation with condominium management-related organizations, etc. shall be enhanced by establishing a governmental contact point at MIC for responding to opinions, requests, inquiries, etc. about statistical surveys from such organizations and regularly exchanging opinions with them.</p>	MIC and relevant ministries	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	<p>○ Initiatives based on the “Action Guidelines for Fostering Understanding of Citizens for the Statistical Surveys” shall be continuously promoted, and publication to respondents shall be expanded and enhanced including promotion of the common understanding about the necessity and importance of statistical surveys and obligation to report, including legal penalties. As part of it, regarding the statistical survey notification information (e.g., “Bulletin on Statistical Survey”) and the content of information about obligation to report and legal penalties shown on websites, etc., revision shall be made to make the content easier to understand by the people, including combining use cases of the statistics. Also, horizontal application of good practices, etc. about responses to people who do not cooperate or publication at statistical survey conducting organizations of local public entities shall be promoted.</p>	Each ministry and MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
(5) Preparations for large-scale disasters, etc.	<p>○ Based on the “Policies in case for Large-scale Disasters”, referencing to the format of the action plan, action plans shall be formulated without delay, and with MIC playing the central role, relevant initiatives shall be promoted by comprehending and sharing information about the action plan formulation progress of ministries.</p>	Each ministry and MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2018.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
<p>4 Securing statistical resources and development of statistical human resources (1) Systematic securing of statistical resources and their redistribution, optimal allocation, etc. a) Systematic securing of statistical resources and their redistribution, optimal allocation</p>	<p>○ Regarding statistical resources necessary for realizing improvement of economic statistics based on the National Accounts and reestablishment of statistics system and promotion of use of those systems from the viewpoint of users, such statistical resources shall be systematically secured while making efforts to effectively utilize existing statistical resources.</p>	Each ministry	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	<p>○ For securing and effective utilization of statistical resources, focus areas to concentrate statistical resources in shall be determined with the Statistics Commission playing the central role.</p>	MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	<p>○ Regarding the new technologies, effective initiatives, etc. about securing and use of statistical resources that shall be shared with other ministries, information sharing through the Statistics Commission, etc. shall be continued, and good practices about new initiatives, revision of work, etc. that should become precedents shall be horizontally applied.</p>	MIC and each ministry	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	<p>○ Regarding the National Statistics Center that is expected to play central roles in provision and utilization of questionnaire information, etc. and enhancement of information provision functions through the Inter-Ministry Information System for Official Statistics, continuous efforts shall be made to secure necessary resources.</p>	MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
<p>b) Cooperation with and support for local public entities</p>	<p>○ Towards improvement of the environment of statistical surveys, with a focus on measures to improve the environment of statistical surveys such as enhancement of publication/awareness raising and urging of relevant organizations, etc. and securing of new young enumerators in FY2018 and FY2019, support shall be provided for prefectures that implement trial initiatives such as reviewing and advancement of survey methods, programs to improve the environment of statistical surveys and relevant support measures in accordance with the actual situation of regions shall be formulated based on the results of the initiatives above and opinions of relevant ministries and local public entities, and support for initiatives such as reviewing and advancement of survey methods by local public entities towards improvement of the environment of statistical surveys by utilizing the support measures above shall be provided in full scale.</p>	MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2020.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In cooperation with relevant ministries, taking into account the actual situations of local public entities, needs, etc., necessary support/consideration, etc. for local public entities shall be conducted, including technical support for additional surveys toward expansion of representation by prefecture as well as consideration/research on how the estimation/provision methods shall be.</li> </ul>	MIC and relevant ministries	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Based on the progress of research toward comprehending the trend of transfers among regions using logistics data that is conducted by CAO, deliberation shall be carried out on its applicability to, for instance, analysis of statistics of local public entities.</li> </ul>	MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Taking into account the needs at local public entities, measures considered effective in promoting personnel exchange shall be developed, including dissemination of information about training programs for personnel exchange, methods and points to be noted for personnel exchange, and development of accepting posts or personnel exchange intermediation functions at the national government. After that, utilizing these measures, personnel exchange with local public entities shall be promoted flexibly responding to requests of the local public entities, and good practices as well as bad practices, etc. shall be shared among relevant ministries and local public entities to improve the initiatives.</li> </ul>	MIC and relevant ministries	Shall be developed by the end of FY2018, and shall then be implemented.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Regarding measures to share information about excellent analysis cases, estimation technologies, etc. among the statistics departments of the national government and local public entities, deliberation shall be carried out and information shall be shared without delay.</li> </ul>	MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ From the viewpoint of providing personnel support, etc. to local public entities, cooperation between local public entities and universities shall be enhanced, including provision of advanced cases on expert utilization from universities, etc. in local areas as well as preparation and provision of a list of experts.</li> </ul>	MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
c) Securing, developing, and support for enumerators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In cooperation with relevant ministries and local public entities, cases of local public entities implementing initiatives, etc. toward appointment of students, participants of lifelong study courses, etc. as enumerators that are considered to contribute to securing enumerators shall be verified, and information on excellent initiatives shall be shared.</li> </ul>	MIC and relevant ministries	Shall be implemented from FY2018.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
	<p>○ In cooperation with relevant ministries and local public entities, research and analysis of the situation of practical work of enumerators shall be performed by conducting questionnaire surveys, etc. to enumerators. Based on the results, sharing of know-how of excellent enumerators, etc. shall be promoted by enhancing the content of training at registered enumerator training, etc. on easy-to-understand explanations to obtain understanding of respondents and thorough information protection after receiving reports. Through that, the quality of enumerators and their awareness about work shall be maintained and improved, and the trust of the people in enumerators shall be secured.</p>	MIC and relevant ministries	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	<p>○ Since improving the online response rate contributes to reduction of the burden of enumerator work (e.g., reduction of inspection work), in cooperation with relevant ministries and local public entities, the content of training for enumerators shall be enhanced for the purpose of improving the ability of enumerators to give explanations to respondents about online surveys.</p>	MIC and relevant ministries	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	<p>○ With the cooperation of relevant ministries, efforts shall be made to enhance support for enumerators by, for instance, comprehending the implementation status utilizing ICT, call centers, etc. that contribute to supporting enumerators and by sharing information among ministries.</p>	MIC and relevant ministries	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
(2) Securing and developing statistical human resources	<p>○ In accordance with the “Policy Concerning Securing, Developing, etc. of Human Resources for Promoting EBPM”, initiatives for developing human resources in the statistics departments shall be promoted.</p>	Each ministry	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	<p>○ In accordance with the “Policy Concerning Securing, Developing, etc. of Human Resources for Promoting EBPM”, regarding conduct of statistical surveys, production and provision of statistics, etc., staff shall be dispatched to other ministries that can offer experience of practical work that is effective in terms of human resource development.</p>	Each ministry and MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	<p>○ Based on the “Policy Concerning Securing, Developing, etc. of Human Resources for Promoting EBPM”, deliberation shall be carried out on comprehensive securing and utilization of statistical human resources in the future.</p>	MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2018.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Ministry in charge	Implementation period
	<p>○ In accordance with the “Policy Concerning Securing, Developing, etc. of Human Resources for Promoting EBPM”, with the Statistics Commission playing the central role, deliberation shall be carried out on specific measures for smoothly securing young researchers at statistics departments for a mid- to long-term by, for instance, developing a work environment that is attractive to researchers, etc. and by working on information dissemination so that such statistics departments can be recognized as an option for a future workplace, and a conclusion shall be reached.</p>	MIC and each ministry	Conclusion shall be reached targeting FY2018.
	<p>○ Initiatives on rearrangement and review of training structure focusing on highly-needed online training shall be implemented considering the characteristics of group training and online training, and in implementing online training, attention shall be paid to securing the interactivity by, for instance, accepting questions from participants. Additionally, to address an increase in the number of applicants in courses due to the promotion of use of statistics at the national government and local public entities, enhancement shall be made on relevant systems to withstand huge traffic.</p>	MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2018.
	<p>○ In cooperation with the Statistical Research and Training Institute, the content of training for staff engaged in statistical work shall be enhanced including utilization of results of R&amp;D on advanced statistics technologies. Based on the request for raising statistical literacy of staff of the national government and local public entities in general, initiatives for expanding and establishing training opportunities shall be promoted by, for instance, selecting items that should be widely learned by staff in general and making participation in online training on basic items mandatory. Also, deliberation shall be carried out on specific measures for dispatching lecturers to ministries and local public entities, etc., and efforts shall be made to realize them.</p>	MIC	Shall be implemented from FY2018.

(Note) Items mentioned in “III. Matters Necessary for the Development of Official Statistics” are common among official statistics in general, including Fundamental Statistics.